Records of Fort St. George.

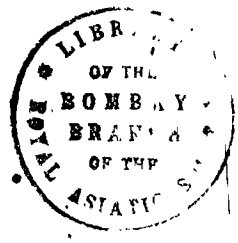
- DIARY -

AND

CONSULTATION BOOK

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

1753.



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PREFATORY NOTE.

This reprint of a volume of the records of Fort St. George has been undertaken in accordance with the decision of the Government of Madras to publish the records of the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries *in extenso*, as explained in the prefatory note to the Diary and Consultation Book for 1672—1678.

This volume has been given priority as it is required to complete the records of the India Office.

MADRAS,
2nd August 1910.

C. M. SCHMIDT,
Officer in charge, Madras Record Office.

RECORDS OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

DIARY AND CONSULTATION BOOK

OF

1753

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

The Extraordinary Occurrences and Consultations of Thomas Saunders Esq^r. President and Governour &c^a. Council of Fort S^t. George containing their private Proceedings and Transactions in the Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies relating to the Presidency on the Coast of Choromandel.

Begun 1st January 1753.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Wednesday the 3d.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH.

General Letter from Major Lawrence read as follows viz^t.

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R.
PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOUR &C^A. COUNCIL OF
FORT S^T. GEORGE

Honble Sir & Sirs

On the Receipt of your Favour of the 11^th. Instant I wrote the Governour Word I was ready to resume the Command through my Zeal for the Service of our Honble Masters whose true Interest I shall ever study to promote [but] I should be quite blind not to take notice of and reply to so extraordinary a Letter where instead of seeming to desire that Harmony you talk of and I have so long wish'd for I perceive an artful Contrivance run through the whole endeavouring to lay all the Blame on me and a Person of very ordinary Sense might discover your real Intentions (if judge from what you write) are to make the Breach wider.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*———

2 It was not one but many Insults & Slights that brought on that Reservedness you mention at Fort S[t.] George, The whole Town, even my own Officers took notice of the ill Usage that was offer'd me before I in the least suspected it; The Good Opinion I had conceiv'd of M[r.] Saunders, join'd to my Zeal for my Zeal [*Sic*] for the publick Service would always have hinde[red] little Jealousies from arising & 'till I plainly saw his unaccountable Pique to me (which extended to an Opposition in the most trivial Things) I never regarded it. I could have passed over the setting aside M[r.] Repington, sending Captain Pigou to Devecotah and me in an open Boat to S[t.] Davids if he would have stopp'd there; But Matters of a higher Consequence determin'd me, Want of Openness in his Correspondence, Neglect of sending positive Orders, bidding me consult with the Nabob whom he calls both Fool and Knave, though I wrote him word it was impossible and would be hurtful; and a General Refusal to every thing I propos'd, I say determin'd me, to ask Leave to resign, well convinc'd no Good could be done while Affairs were obstinately continued in such a Situation.

3 As you have been at the Pains of examining several Letters and made Remarks as you proceeded I rather chuse to consider what you have said than relate a long Narrative of my own since I conceive it will answer the same End and prove notwithstanding the light Manner in which you pass every thing over that I have not complain'd without Reason.

4 In regard to the Badness of my Interpreter you say the President endeavour'd to get me Paupah Braminy for a Linguist; Tis certain he suffer'd me to be without one for four months, however easy to procure another, besides he absolutely refus'd me the Man you speak of when I ask'd for him at Madrass and would not let me try to engage him.

5 I conceive you mistake the Point in question, relating to M[r.] Repington; This Gentleman having serv'd the Company as a Lieutenant at S[t.] Helena, was sent out with me to be reinstated in the Service and I deliver'd a Paper in Council (which I suppose is enter'd) shewing that our Honble Masters directed he should be provided for as I appointed; Being in great Want of Officers at Trichenopoly & convinc'd of his Experience and Capacity I gave him a Brevet enabling him to act in his former Rank and acquainted the President with what I had done who never objected to it 'till three Months afterwards Can any man call this superceding? Neither M[r.] Saunders's Case nor mine will bear a Parallel with it. Officers of one or two Years Standing have no Reason to complain when another of superior Rank is brought into the Corps and I protest the least Grumbling never reach'd my Ears but all the Ensigns serv'd under him with pleasure; I must add Gentlemen that even Promotions out of the Common Road are often made when the Service requires it; Captain Clive was offer'd a Major's Brevet to a Glorious Purpose would his Health have permitted him to accept it and He and M[r.] Varilles made Captains over every body; I would gladly make the Case of M[r.] Ripington theirs.

6 Captain Pigou a young Man was sent to Devecotah instead of Captain Clark whom I intended for it; you might easily have remov'd this Grievance to the publick a great while ago if you had intended it by exchanging one for the other. If the President told Captain Schaub it was not proper to declare what his Detachment was intended for 'till after their Arrival at S[t.] David was it right that I should be kept in the Dark; The Obscurity that was affected exp[o]s'd me to the Officers and M[r.] Schaub remark'd he had never known before that his General (as he call'd me) had n[ot] the Power to grant him a small Favour.

7 That Affairs have been carried on in Obscurity is certain as at this Instant I am ignorant both of your General Plan and Designs. When I was at Madrass I remember the President amus'd me with li[tt]le Things as they happen'd and what is scarce worth mentioning except to shew how I was treated forc'd me to wait half an hour in the Hall whilst He was talking with a Vakeel and afterwards to excuse it said he was deep in Discourse with him but nothing further. If you appeal to the

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

Camp Correspondence I can't find any thing there to clear up the matter except a Reservedness in every Particular, Let any impartial Man look over our Letters and determine who has acted with most Openness, it seems to me that I am loaded with Praises in those where I am most trifled with.

8 The Plan I wrote at leaving the Army in July was for the Nabob to go to Pondicherry Bounds, to this you reply we have no Business there which is certainly true but the Nabob had with M^{r} Dupliex. I thought the Neighbourhood of Pondicherry the properest Place for negotiating a Peace which then seem'd procurable but did not want to commit Hostilities or enter the Limits. Let us see what was the Consequence of deviating from this and pursuing another Scheme—Major Kinneer was order'd to Gingee leaving Waldour & Pondicherry in his Rear which cut off all Communication with S^{t} Davids, Unless with strong Detachments that could not be spar'd; The French had Time to recruit; The Country People no longer aw'd again join'd Chunda's Party, and Mons^{r} Dupliex observing our Measures actually collected a sufficient Force to oppose the Nabob with his Army divided as it was. Gingee prov'd impregnable to Cannon Shott & was only to be reduc'd by Famine. Captain Gardner with a third Part of the Troops and a large Convoy of Stores was not able to join Major Kinneer by which means the Siege came to be rais'd; The Nabob in a Headstrong Manner insisted on engaging the Enemy who were very strongly situated and lost a Battle at Vickeryvandy; Thus this flourshing victorious Army was forc'd to take Shelter under the Walls of Trivedy after being repuls'd and the Enemy were so elate upon it that they encamp'd within a Mile of our Bounds.

9 I must own your Notion of overrunning the Province in an Instant startled me then and does still & whatever trifling Advantages may attend the Reduction of strong Places we shall be inevitably ruin'd by the taking and Garrisoning them, while we have so many Enemies if once we lose the Superiority in the Field. I need not remark that dividing their Force is the very Rock the French have split on.

10. I don't know what Opinion might have been given in regard to the Passage of Ships to S^{t} David in August but Captain Browne who is thoroughly acquainted with the Coast undertook to carry us there in two or three days which the Event prov'd and I must remark that no lucky Spirit but the Ordinary Land & Sea Breezes served our purpose. The President may remember I told him I was ready to go in a Butcher's Tray if the Service requir'd it, but I saw no Reason for this or Mussoolahs; when a Ship was to be had, especially as I had been ill so lately.

11. The President did write me on the 25th October that he thought such a Correspondence as ours extremely improper & promis'd the strictest Scrutiny, but this must appear to be playing with Words when every thing remain'd as before. I never complain'd that any of his Letters wanted Complaisance.

12. Your Sentiments on Winter Quarters and keeping the Field will require a closer Attention than the foregoing Paragraphs; the several Reasons I urg'd for going to S^{t} David were that before I left Wondivash & march'd to Trivedy in Obedience to the President's Orders, the Rainy Season appear'd to be set in, the Rivers were swell'd and the Roads already very difficult to travel in, all our Carriages were out of Repair, great Quantities of our Ammunition spoilt & the men falling sick every Day, that the Situation of Trivedy was very unwholesome, that the Monsoon was no Season proper for Action and that besides saving the Company a great deal of Money we should be as near the Enemy at S^{t} Davids & more ready to detach Parties from thence than any where else.

13. If the General Opinion in August was for the Troops to winter in the Arcot Country & there was no Thoughts of going to S^{t} Davids, yet You'll agree the Morattas forc'd us to alter this Scheme, I can't conceive how the Nabob's Successes could be turn'd to a Greater or indeed any Advantage by continuing abroad in the Monsoon and I aver that a Good Garrison in Trivedy would have answer'd as well as keeping our whole Force there, it has always appear'd to me that a Rupture was inevitable between the Mysore King & Nabob unless Trichenopoly was given up so that I can't conceive the Differences have been easier at one time than another, but if they had

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been Friends what would it have avail'd when the Weather prevented our acting; Has it been in my power to prevent this Alliance just concluded between the French, Mysorean, Moratta and Veloor Phousdar? was it possible for me to prevent the Enemy's throwing Supplies into Ginjee and collecting a Force at Waldour while the Ariacopang & Penniar Rivers were impassable? if it was never design'd the Troops should go into Garrison, I must beg youll explain what the President means by Winter Quarters so often mention'd in his Letters or whether you think it right I should be forc'd to consult with the Nabob whose Obstinacy and Folly would ruin every thing was he to be trusted with the Management of Affairs, if you have had the Opinion of Officers who winter'd abroad when you gave yours for it, I should be glad to ask them what Service was done by it or whether Captain De Gingins and every Officer he advis'd with did not want to go into Trichenopoly during the Monsoon, but the Nabob refus'd it. I know of no considerable Advantages that might be had from lying out this Winter and the Event shews nothing was got by it after sacrificing several brave Soldiers who might have liv'd to serve their Country had my Advice been follow'd. Your Observation is just that while Men subsist there will be a Diversity of Opinions but I could have brought those of six or seven hundred Sufferers to support mine and I think no Man ought to be trusted with the Command & Care of the Troops whose Hands are so tied that he can't take the necessary Caution for their Preservation 'till the Affair has been debated in a Council & it takes up fifteen days for an answer.

14. If my calculate of saving near eighty thousand Rupees a month is imperfect, yet if you consider the Batty of Officers, Soldiers & Seapoys, the Hire of Cooleys, Lascars and Bullocks, together with the Expence of Ammunition and the Employment of the severals at Fort S^{t} David who were idle at Trivedy I believe it will appear I am not very wide of the Mark, add to this Time would not have been lost now the Season offers for Action. How is it possible Gentlemen we could have the Apparent Advantages you mention by staying at Trivedy more than S^{t} Davids, but one Days March from it? I don't know what you mean by awing the Country as at this Instant no body are in Arms but the French and Morattas & the Monsoon is not a time to raise Contributions. If the Killedar of Wondivash refuses to pay the remaining Lack and I should be order'd to march there we are as near it here within six Miles as we should be at Trivedy; Add to this that Stores of every Kind are at hand. Further the Nabob never promis'd us more than fifty thousand Rupees out of the three Lack and complain'd it was more than he could spare, this will appear by my Letters and was what he told the Commissary as well as me when he receiv'd the Money.

15. You next acknowledge that the Rivers will swell and there must be some Inconvenience, but the Nabob presses being in the Field as the only means to keep his Affairs from suffering & that You heartily wish the Enemy may not appear abroad when our Troops are in Garrison & ruin the Country. I believe you'll find it difficult with three times our Numbers to keep the Enemy from destroying the Country and a Paragraph in your Letter now before me confirms the Opinion "Every one knows the precipitate Marches of Moratta Horse that they plunder burn "and destroy wherever they go, they don't move in large Bodies but straggling "Parties, Our Troops are Infantry, if you can get Advice of them, before your "Troops can be up with them they are gone" And for the Nabob's Opinion I must beg Leave to transcribe what the President says of him in the Correspondence after complaining of the monstrous Agreement that was made with the Morattas. "I have heard by the by that in the Course of 49 (the Nabob's Affairs) that no "sooner is one Difficulty surmounted but fresh arise of such a particular Nature "that would lead one into a serious Reflection, they say that 49 (the Nabob) "is either a great Fool or a great Knave, by Letters I have receiv'd from thence I "am inclin'd to believe the former". Here's a Nabob whose Schemes ought to be pursued, I can tell you Gentlemen & so can CaptainDe Gingins that if his Schemes had been pursued or had we even [*lacuna in the original*] been acquainted with what was doing, his Affairs would have been ruin'd long ago, but after all I must renew what

The President's Letter 30th. Septr.

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I said long since that at S^{t}· Davids we should be as capable of watching the Enemy and as near them as at Trivedy, and if this is granted me, surely the Reasons I offer'd were sufficient. If half your Garrison is sick what must be the Case of poor Fellows who did not lye one Night dry for three Weeks though great Part of them down with Agues and Fevers; Would it not have been better every way that instead of ordering the Troops into Garrison by your General Letter of the 15th· November, you had done it a Month before.

16 I must repeat that I did not advise to attack the Morattas till they plainly appear'd to be our Enemies and I am certain from what I have seen of this Country that you can never secure a Friend in it but by convincing him he dare not be otherwise, when once you come to Treaty with these People, they rise in their Demands as you lower yours which is indeed the very nature of all Despotick Government.

17 I came now to consider your taking of Places, a Thing I never advis'd but consented to in Obedience to Orders, Before the Battle of Pariar Choultry the Nabob whom I was to consult would not agree that we should march to the Northward, afterwards he desir'd to remain at Trivedy for some time which was reasonable as we were doubtful about the Morattas and it was with the greatest Difficulty I prevail'd on him to set out for Wondivash when we did; The Season was now far advanc'd, it rain'd almost continually but as we had three things in view, the securing Winter Quarters, assisting Captain Clive and raising Money, we mov'd on with Cheerfulness and laid Wondivash under Contribution. It will appear by my Letters I had the Reduction of this Fort & Chettepet in view if the Weather was any thing tolerable though it was even a Doubt with the President some time before when he writes me "As the Monsoon approaches I can't perceive any great Scene for "Action" But how surpriz'd must I be to receive a Letter from Captain Clive telling me he had positive Orders from M^{r}· Saunders neither to join me nor send me the heavy Cannon. Is this consistent Gentlemen with the Nature of my Commission for a Captain to tell me he has Orders to disobey me tho' I march'd from Trivedy to sustain his Party as well as to act otherwise ? would it not have been better to have wrote me word I must not expect him? To proceed—The Rains continued I had neither Bullocks nor Carriages to spare for fetching Cannon from Arcot and with a real Grief to see this constant Opposition to every thing I desir'd or propos'd which might one time or other endanger the Service, I resolv'd to go and winter at Conjeveram. As if I was never to have done with Cross Purposes after we were ready for marching comes an Order from the Presdent "If 35 (Changleput) should be easy I really think 19 (Trivedy) should engross the Nabob's Thoughts a few days or at the most not exceed 34 36. 38. 40 (Wondivash)" In Obedience to this I alter'd my Rout and after being far advanc'd on the Road & having our Ammunition spoilt by the Deep Guts of Water we pass'd and the heavy Rains I receiv'd the Letters you wrote about Chetteput. Mine wrote near that Time will best shew our Situation; From Villemoodoo October the 6th· I say "I heave heard nothing of Clive, since I receiv'd your last, this & the Season's being too far advanc'd makes me give over all Thought of 37 (Chetteput) again it has rain'd excessive hard which makes it quite necessary to think rather of refreshing our Men than lying out in the Field without a pressing Occasion". From Vickeryvandy October 8th· "I have spoke to the Nabob about Money, he complains that he's over head and Ears in Debt and can't possibly spare more than forty thousand Rupees; I have wrote you my reasons for giving over all Thought of Chetteput and the Weather is so terrible that I fear we shall lose a great many men before we reach our Journeys End" Tis observ'd I never mention'd Captain Clive's joining me in the Correspondence; No, I imagin'd my Orders to him were sufficient if I thought it proper as he was so much nearer me than you.

The President's Letter No. 23. 22d Septr.

President's Letter 30th September.

18. I don't know what the President may have wrote Captain Clive but does it not appear Gentlemen a little with the latest to defer countermanding his Orders about sending the heavy Cannon till the 2^{d}· October when he knew I must be half Way to Trivedy in Obedience to what he wrote Sept^{r}· 30th·, before it was possible the Letter could reach me.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

19. The Affairs of Bullocks Cooleys &c^{a} has been spoken of fully by M^{r} Starke & myself conjunctly.

20. And now Gentlemen I am come to that part of your Letter where you finish your Enquiry but the Consideration of what I have remark'd will shew I can by no means agree that I complain'd without Reason, If it appears that a Constant Opposition has been hitherto made to me, is at possible the Service of our Honble Masters could be forwarded while I acted at all when I saw no prospect of an End to this Opposition? Was it not the part of an honest Man to sacrifice my own Interest and Employments rather than continue it? I can assure you Gentlemen I am sincere when I tell you my Passions are neither so violent nor my Resentment so strong but I am yet able to forget everything that is past and if a Friendship and Harmony subsist for the future as it ought, I shall think myself happy in having resum'd the Command as it may give me some Share in disappointing the Scheme of these Enemies to our Country who aim at the Destruction of our Trade and all that is dear to us.

21 I should be glad to make an End here, but an Expression in your Letter (which pardon me if I call impolite) telling me I made a dishonourable Request forces me to say a word or two more and accompany you to the End.

22 If you ever intend I shall have it in my power to reward an Officer in the Field who appears to me to have extraordinary Merit (a thing never denied a Commander before) why are the Conditions of coming into the Service made worse to M^{r} Repington now than they were last August; his Behaviour at the Battle near Bawoor I thought merited something more than my first Appointment and I recommended him to the President who return'd me a List of Officers to be made Lieutenants and plac'd him the sixth from M^{r} Cooper, this I own gave me some Surprize but how great must it be to find now you have put six more over him. I would ask whether this is meant to disgust or not? or has he committed any Crime to merit this Usage?

23 An Enquiry in the Transactions of this Compaign will shew whether I deserve the cruel Hint you give of neglecting to forward the Service. I arriv'd at S^{t} David the 16th August, brought the Enemy to an Engagement & beat them the 26th Afterwards he march'd to Trivedy and waited the coming down of the Morattas from whence it was unsafe to stir as we did not know whether they were Friends or Foes. On the 19th September they join'd us; On the 24th they set out for Wondivash notwithstanding the Badness of the Weather & reach'd it the 30th We finish'd our Business there by the 6th October, when the terrible Rains & Thunder made us think the Monsoon was set in. M^{r} Saunders's Orders for returning to Trivedy and Captain Clive's Letters informing me he could not send the Heavy Cannon made me give over all Thoughts of Chetteput if it was adviseable (though I really think it was not) so I made forc'd Marches & with an infinite deal of Fatigue got happily to Trividy by the 10th Here the Campaign ended & whatever may be thought by those at a Distance, here it ought to have ended, and we gone into S^{t} Davids. But through a Pique to me and for no other Reason that appears from all I have been considering, the Poor Soldiers, these brave Troops that have surmounted so many Difficulties and serv'd our Masters with so much Alacrity have been expos'd to all the Inclemencies of a Monsoon when they were useless and might have been employed at S^{t} Davids in making Preparations for the ensuing Season and which we now feel the Consequences of. You might with Reason say I had acted dishonourably in continuing the Command to the Detriment of the Company when I was convinc'd nothing but the mortifying me (and you have succeeded) could cause the steps to be taken that were. My Heart now bleeds to think I could not redress the People's just Grievances nor can it be forgotten that I was forc'd to wait fifteen days for an answer to my Remonstrances which did not remove the Cause of my Complaint.

24 When I take the Field which shall be as soon as possible I expect a certain Plan for Action and if ever I write for Orders on any particular Point, beg you'll send them positively. As I agree a Correspondence of this Kind is improper, let it drop,

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but if ever it should happen that my Actions, don't please you or I am directed to do any thing I can't execute with Honour as a Soldier; The publick Good requires that my Command should cease and I attend that Council of which I am a Member to answer for my Conduct. However be assured I'll omit nothing to assist the Nabob and distress his Enemies and beg you'll believe that a lasting Friendship and Harmony amongst us all cannot be more zealously desir'd by any one than myself. Fort St. David 31st. December 1752.

I am with the greatest Respect
Hoñble Sir & Sirs
Fort St. David 31st December 1752. Your most humble & most Obed$^{t.}$ servant
STRINGER LAWRENCE.

As we are of Opinion a Correspondence of this nature cannot any ways conduce to the Publick Service 'tis judg'd proper to drop it and instead of replying to M$^{r.}$ Lawrence's Letter of the 31$^{st.}$ Ultimo, enter into our Remarks in the Extraordinary Occurrences as follows viz$^{t.}$ Paragraphs in Mr. Lawrence's of the 31st. Decr.

The Examining the several Grievances complain'd of, a plain Narrative of Matters of Fact relative thereto free from any Disquisitions or Inferences of our own does not carry with it the Appearance of an Artful Contrivance but was the most prudent means we could think of, as well as our real Intentions to promote Harmony. 1

M$^{r.}$ Saunders as soon as he heard of the least Uneasiness took the surest Method he could think of to remove it by desiring M$^{r.}$ Lawrence would explain it; M$^{r.}$ Lawrence express'd he was satisfy'd, and when afterwards desir'd to represent his Grievances, such as came to our knowledge are remark'd in our Address to M$^{r.}$ Lawrence, if there are others we are ignorant of them. It is universally known, (Experience since confirms it) that the Nabob's secretly giving a Promise of the Trichenopoly Country was a Knavish & weak Action, the former because he knew he had no Right to do it; the latter because he must know that though he procrastinated Difficulties, yet he must in the End, (as it but too plainly appears) make a powerful Enemy instead of a Friend. When M$^{r.}$ Saunders wrote M$^{r.}$ Lawrence he was Knave and a Fool was at the time he was going to plunge himself into fresh and worse Difficulties by Engagements to the Morattoe who was a more dangerous Enemy than the Mysore King. It may be deem'd an unlucky Circumstance that we have a weak Prince to support, the great Consequence that even the Name of him is to us is obvious, Perswasions are oftentimes of more Force than Compulsion, were we to assume to ourselves the whole Power of acting, what Disgusts, what ill Consequences might not from thence issue? 2

The President never refus'd M$^{r.}$ Lawrence the Linguist he speaks of, when he mention'd one he told him the fewer were in the Secret of Affairs the better, and that if he could do with that who was at Camp it might be as well, however the President us'd all his Endeavours to perswade Paupah Braminy to go to M$^{r.}$ Lawrence but could not prevail on him. 4

There is no Mistake in regard to M$^{r.}$ Ripington, the Company did not order him to be reinstated, he came out a Voluntier; There was great Murmuring and Discontent; to mention only one Instance, Lieut$^{t.}$ Cooper would have flung up his Commission, neither has the Case of Mess$^{rs.}$ Clive and Vareilles the least Affinity, they are both nominal Officers, the first never receiv'd any pay, they have no Companies nor Perquisites nor do they prevent the Rank of any other Officers; Captain Clive was never offer'd a Major's Brevet and generally had Subalterns on Command with him, M$^{r.}$ Vareilles was for his good Capacity and Military Knowledge recommended by M$^{r.}$ Robins, has been in the way of no one and behav'd well. 5

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Paragraphs in Major Lawrence's Letter of the 31st. December.

6 Captain Pigou was the only officer in Garrison to relieve Capt. Maskelyne, he is about the same Age and Major Kinneer apply'd for it, Captain Clarke is reckon'd a brave good Officer. Mr. Lawrence was in Consultation when it was agreed to send Captain Schaub's Detachment to St. David & was consequently acquainted with it from the time it was order'd, but this is no Reason that Captain Schaub should, nor was Mr. Lawrence the least in the Dark from the President's saying to Mr. Schaub it was not proper to tell him the Service he was going on.

7. The General Plan is known to every Child in the Place (to secure the Company's Trade & support the Nabob). The Plan of Action Mr. Lawrence has always been consulted about and when in the Field every thing constantly communicated to him, if they appear trifling and related with Reserve let the Correspondence speak for itself. If Mr. Lawrence waited a little while the Nabob's Vakeel (or Ambassador) was with the President, he thinks twas no more than Good Manners and what every Gentleman would do.

8. As to the Bounds of Pondicherry being a proper Place for negotiating a peace, Mr. Dupliex's peaceable Inclinations soon appear'd and in regard to Major Kinneers Expedition 'twas ill conducted, when he came to Gingee he had twelve Pounder Guns and 18 Pound Shott; his Force was doubly superiour to the Enemies, his very Escort (encamp'd in the manner they were) might have bid Defiance to them; he attack'd them too precipitately, 'twas an Error in Judgment that occasion'd his Retreat to Trivedy.

9. Not overrunning the whole Province but the Advantage of taking some particular Places are notoriously evident; Is not Arcot one? What induces the Nabob to erase Saudet Bander? does not Changleput shew it's use? If these are no Advantages why does the Enemy shew such a Regard to Gingee? 'tis Garrison'd though they have but about 300 Men in the Field and we near eight hundred, and as they make it their Grand Magazine we have great Reason to apprehend 'tis but of too much Consequence.

10. Captain Browne could not undertake a Thing that was very uncertain and contrary to a General Opinion. He obey'd his Orders. Going chearfully in a Boat is of more Benefit to the Service than for any one to say he would go in a Nutshell instead of a Butcher's Tray.

11. The strictest Scrutiny was made into the Grievances complain'd of, the Answer to Mr. Lawrence's Letters shew the Nature of them.

12 & 13. In regard to Winter Quarters, the President left it to Mr. Lawrence, he took the Field and came to Wondivash, though the Morattoes render'd it detrimental that the Troops should proceed any further in the Arcot Country, yet they might have stay'd at Wondivash or Chetteput, these places afford as good Quarters as St. David. Matters were upon a more easy Footing with the Mysore King, he had just sent the Morattas to join us and Mr. Lawrence's Letters mention they might be rely'd on. The following Letter from Captain Clive (who was acting at that time) to the President gives his Opinion that Gingee & Chetteput might have been reduc'd viz.

"Sir

"I have receiv'd your favour of the 4th., the party said to be at Sadrass never "came so far by some Miles and is for certain gone to Gingee.

"Mr. Walsh has communicated to me your Opinion about Wondivash being "the Winter Quarters, I am certain the Army's staying there will be most for the "Interest of the Nabob and Company; Mooden Saib rents Countries to the amount of "ten Lacks of Rupees and he assures me if the Morattas come that way,* the "Circar will suffer greatly, besides Wondivash is better situated for annoying the

* towards Conjeveram.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

Paragraphs in Major Lawrence's Letter of the 31st December.

" Enemy, it is from Gingee about the Distance of twenty five miles and the same " from Chetteput which are the only two Places of Consequence now remaining in " the Enemy's Possession. if he has any fair Weather he may easily master the latter, " at the same time if the Horse do their Duty he may surround the former, if " Supplies are effectually cut off from Gingee it cannot hold out 'till January, & " that is the only way of reducing it; I shall settle the Covelon Country with the " Nabob's Buxy & return to Madrass being Sir with great Respect.

Tyoor Camp
5th. October 1752.

" Your most Oblig'd humble servant
" ROBERT CLIVE

The Troops remaining abroad at Trichenopoly was of infinite Service it prevented the Enemy's making their Approaches and so far from it's being the Opinion of every Officer at Trichenopoly to go in, that had such a Step been taken it would have been immediately protested against. In regard to the Preservation of the Men the tenderest Regard should be shewn and 'tis well known there's hardly a Town but what is capable of quartering the Troops; a few days Rain cannot be esteem'd a bad Monsoon. What was the Consequence of their going into St. David? Before they had been there sixteen Days, Mr. Lawrence wrote us 'twas absolutely necessary they should immediately take the Field and now they have an Enemy abroad but before they had none, the former was certainly the Time for the Nabob to push his Successes.

Mr. Lawrence's Calculation of saving is wrong, the only way to save is putting the Nabob in a way to support his Cause, the Nabob's reducing Chetteput & Gingee were the points in view, by being abroad and not going to Trividy where there was no Occasion for passing Rivers and the Enemy had no Horse then. What the President says of the Nabob has been already taken notice of, but this is quite foreign to the Purpose; Surely Mr. Lawrence ought always to consult with the Nabob and learn from him what Advices he receives and the Intelligence brought him, this does not any ways imply an implicit putting in Execution what the Nabob says, nor by consulting with the Nabob can we suppose he would be the less a Judge but rather more capable of determining. It seems very particular that best part of an Army of near six hundred Men should be sick directly and the Question may be reasonably ask'd why they were not sent into Garrison as they fell sick, for only one hundred were sufficient for the Security of Trividy. If the Adjutant's Books were examin'd as to the Number sent in and at what times, there's Reason to believe it will not exceed the Number of Sick in the Garrison of Fort St. George, allowing for the different Proportions, besides Trividy is allow'd by Officers that have been there to be capable of affording Good Quarters to a much larger Number of Men than were there. 14 & 15.

Fear is allow'd to be a prevailing Principle in Despotick Governments, but 'tis not found by Experience that we have a Force sufficient to strike it to Effect. 16

The Nabob as will appear by his Letters, always press'd taking the Field and complains of his lying at a fruitless Expence at Trividy; The President may often easily judge that a particular point gain'd will produce an Advantage but from hence cannot be inferr'd that he will immediately and absolutely order a Commander to do it, he will consult with him and learn his Opinion, & thus in regard to Winter Quarters; nay, 'twas left to Mr Lawrence to follow his own Judgment, he thought it adviseable to take the Field, more than once mentions Chetteput in a Manner that express'd a particular Warmth for it. In regard to heavy Cannon, Changleput was not taken 'till the 1st. October, that night Orders went about the heavy Cannon, the 2d. in the morning, though Mr. Lawrence had never made the least mention of them, Orders were sent to know if he should want them, besides Captain Clive had wrote before about them and surely Mr. Lawrence 17 & 18

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

Paragraphs in Major Lawrence's Letter of the 31st December.

would have immediately sent for them, Mr. Lawrence has been already acquainted that Captain Clive declares he had no such Orders, nor was there any Occasion for Carriages to fetch Cannon from Arcot.

20 The Opposition mention'd is not prov'd in one single point, The Incursions of the Morattas were the Reason for not advancing to Conjeveram and allow'd to be sufficient, Chetteput would by all Accounts on sitting down before it have surrender'd.

22 An Officer that behaves bravely merits greatly. Before Mr. Lawrence took the Field Mr. Repington was offer'd a Lieutenancy of the Train & told he could not possibly have a Lieutenancy in the Infantry as it would be injustice to several Officers that had behav'd well. When the List of Officers was sent Mr. Lawrence forgets that the President wrote him that if he had err'd twas for want of Information, he took it verbally from Captain Clive as We had no Returns.

23 It is not plain where any Hint is given of Mr. Lawrence's Neglect of the Service, our Letter of the 11th. Ultimo was in answer to several of his and contain'd no more than Quotations from the Correspondence and it's Design was to remove those Difficulties and promote Harmony which is our Desire. We have already remark'd that a few days Rain cannot be call'd a bad Monsoon and that Trividy is capable of quartering a much larger Force than ours was.

24 Mr. Lawrence has always been and will be consulted, Orders have and will be constantly sent him; Harmony and Friendship we hope will prevail and Success attend our Arms.

The President lays before the Board the Military Correspondence vizt.

Major Lawrence writes that as he would willingly take the Field as soon as possible he desires positive Orders without which it will be impossible for him to act. That he is inform'd a Court of Enquiry is ordered upon Lieutenant Demar and is of Opinion Captains Clive and Maskelyne are the properest Captains to assist at it.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly advises that the Mysore Horse are return'd from Madura to Syringham and that the whole Forces there amount to about five thousand five hundred Men, part are encamp'd under the Walls and the rest are in the Pagoda; That the Daloways People continue to collect all the Grain about Trichenopoly to the very Walls and frequently appear in small Parties with drawn Swords to the great Terror of the People and even came to one of the Advanc'd Posts but on the Seapoys there preparing to receive them they thought proper to move off: That finding he could obtain no Redress from the Daloway he ordered the Guards at the Advanc'd Posts to fire on them if they attempted to cut the Paddy, in consequence of which there had been a slight Skirmish at Wayconda with a Party of the Enemy wherein several of them were wounded and have not since appear'd; That Murtaz Ally Cawn Phousdar of Veloor takes every Opportunity he can of distressing the Nabob's Affairs by spreading abroad false Rumours; That the Daloway complains Vencaty Row his Vakeel is detain'd here and wonders that the Nabob's Friendship should be preferr'd to his.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot mentions that the Nabob's Officer there having discharg'd near a thousand Horse besides a Number of Seapoys; they went to the Phousdar of Velloor who has entertain'd them and they are now plundering all the Country about Arcot. That he has receiv'd Advice a party of about six hundred Morattas and four hundred Seapoys are near Conjeveram and have ravag'd and plunder'd all the Villages between that Place and Muslepauk; that the People in general are greatly terrify'd and fly from their Habitations, even Arcot itself is unpeopled.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

Lieutenant Innis at Changleput complains heavily that he can get no money from the Nabob to pay his People and Workmen, that the Amuldar takes no Measures for laying in Stores of any Sort and the Enemies are plundering all the Country round about, that a Party of them having lately appear'd in Sight of the Fort he sent a Detachment to attack them in which they succeeded and took one hundred & thirty two head of Cattle that they were driving off, that it is with great Difficulty he can prevail on the Nabob's People to stir out of the Fort though the Enemy's Seapoys are ravaging many Villages they might protect.

Captain Vareilles at Saudet Bander advises that the Demolition of that Fort was begun the 30th. Ultimo and goes on briskly, that it was with great Difficulty the Workmen could be prevail'd on to go there and notwithstanding all Precautions some of the Bricklayers have deserted of whom he is in great Want.

The President's Letters are to the following Effect.

To Captain Dalton not to send the Cannon &c^{a}. as formerly directed to Devecotah without further Orders that he must consider well his own and the Enemy's Force and if he thinks any considerable Advantage can be gain'd to attempt it, but on no account whatever to risque the Place. That it is reported Moraree is gone to Pondicherry. That as Gopaul Rauze and seven hundred Arm'd Peons are in Trichenopoly, if he thinks it convenient he may disarm and turn them out which will be a good Supply of Spare Arms, but not to part with Gopaul Rawze.

To Lieut^{t}. Innis at Changleput that as the Nabobs Officer neglects to furnish the French Prisoners with Provisions, he has order'd Captain Clive to do it. That if Ensign Billock who he is to join Abdul Vahab Cawn should come that way, he must give them all possible Assistance

Which the Board approve.

THO^{s}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{s}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

AT A CONSULTATION *Present.* Monday the 8th

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}. GOV^{R}. PRES^{DT}
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

Two Letters from Mess^{rs}. Starke & Lawrence read Copies whereof follow viz^{t}.

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}. Fort S^{t}. David 3rd. Jañry. 1753.

Sir

We have been waiting impatiently for an answer to that part of our Letters desiring your and the Council's positive Orders for acting with the Nabob against his Enemies and that you would tell us in particular of what Nation these Enemies are; As this appears to be no very difficult point to determine since the Morattas have join'd the French who in Conjunction distress us to the utmost of their power we hop'd you would sooner have reply'd to what we wrote for. Major Lawrence cannot pretend to attack the Enemy without it which may be of the greatest Detriment to the Service in general.

The French Camp has mov'd from Waldoor towards Trivedy, this makes it absolutely necessary that the remaining Part of our Force march there and accordingly Major Lawrence sets out on Fryday or Saturday, but we beg you won't delay sending the Orders that are wanted for he positively will not act offensively 'till they arrive for fear You should differ in Opinion with him and condemn what he does. We should be glad to know if you approve of our buying Horses to compleat the Troop as we have only twelve private Men for Patroles at present.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

We think as the Enemy are so strong in Horse and we have so few that it would be proper to write again to the King of Tanjour and press him to join us; We'll desire the Nabob to do the same. We are with the greatest Respect

Sir

Your most Humble and
most Obedient Servants

RICHARD STARKE
STRINGER LAWRENCE

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r.
President & Governour &c^a. Council
of Fort S^t. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs — Fort S^t. David 5^th. Jan^y. 1753

The Enemy having collected a very considerable Force together which are now encamp'd within five Miles of Trivedy; We are unanimous in Opinion that Major Lawrence with the Remainder of the Troops take the Field immediately and pursue the Plan he shall think most proper to promote the Interest of the Honble Company & Nabob. Every thing has been ready for several Days and we only waited your positive Orders and Instructions that have been so often requested so that if any ill Consequences should be brought on by these Delays we cannot be answerable for them; However Major Lawrence will act to the best of his Judgment 'till he hears from you which we are in hourly Expectation of.

As the Morattas have entirely thrown off the Mask and appear Declared and open Enemies we have sent Captain Dalton Word it is our Opinion he ought to act immediately against the King of Mysore and distress him to the utmost of his Power if he does not instantly consent to recall Moraree.

We are with the greatest Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Humble and
most Obedient Servants

RICHARD STARKE
STRINGER LAWRENCE

As the foregoing Letters do not acknowledge the Receipt of the General Letters dated the 30^th Ultimo but express an impatient waiting for Orders it was imagin'd that the Letters might have miscarried, on Receipt therefore of that dated the 3^d Duplicates were forwarded the 6th Instant and the President at the same time wrote as follows.

To Mess^rs. Starke and Lawrence

Gentlemen — Fort S^t. George 6^th January 1753

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 3^d Inst^t.; the joint Letter and one to M^r. Lawrence was dispatch'd the 31^st. Ultimo by a Cattemaran.

I am apprehensive the Tanjorean Horse will be dilatory and this is Sumpetrow's Opinion, I have wrote the King in the strongest Terms and now repeat them.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

The Nabob has lately sent some Letters and Papers said to come from Balaza Row, 'tis impossible to judge whether it is not a Contrivance of his. The Contents are to assure him of his Friendship and desire we would continue our Assistance to him; the inclos'd is Copy of one receiv'd by Hircars who report that Salabat Jung will go to Aurungabad and Balazarow is on his March for this province & that there is great Discontent among the Omrahs at Salabat Jung's Proceedings. In his Letters to the Nabob he mentions having wrote to Moraree & the Mysore Daloway to desist, if really so very little Regard is paid to his Letters, should he come this way would it not be proper to send a Vackeel to him; the French will certainly endeavour to gain him to their Party. After his Arrival a Present might have Weight.

The Nabob some time past sent me an order for the Payment of three Lack, it is quite imperfect as there is no Amuldars Name mention'd; I therefore return'd it to him and desired he would send me Orders according to the Paper No. 2 inclos'd.

With this is one to the Nabob and another to Captain Dalton

I am

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS.

Major Lawrence's private Letters to the President are also read & mention that he imagines there must be some Mistake in the Commissions of Mess^{rs}. Crow & Harrison as their Standing would entitle them to take Rank before several in the List to be made Lieutenants. That he only waits for positive Orders & to be told in particular who are the Nabob's Enemies before he takes the Field. That a Reinforcement of the Nabobs and our Seapoys having been thrown into Trinomely, the besieg'd made a vigourous & successful Sally, beat the Besiegers out of the Village & took five Pieces of Cannon, some Prisoners, Colours and a great deal of Ammunition, The Enemy's Commanding Officer & four Europeans were kill'd with many Seapoys & our Loss very trifling.

The President in answer desires to be inform'd where the Mistake lies in the Commissions of Mess^{rs}. Crow & Harrison that he is inform'd they are rank'd according to the Date of their Brevets.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly writes that five hundred Tanjorean Horse & one thousand Seapoys are near Coiladdy under the Command of Gorryrow who has succeeded Monagee & that he has wrote him very fully. That the Mysore Camp without the Walls of Syringham he thinks cannot consist of above five thousand Horse and he imagines if his Seapoys should behave but tolerably he could attack them in the night with great Advantage however in case he should find it requisite to make such an Attempt he shall leave a sufficient Force for the Security of Trichinopoly and a Guard to the French Prisoners; That the Rajah has desir'd the President will in ten days declare whether he intends his Money should be paid or not that he may take his Measures accordingly.

Lieutenant Innis's Letters from Changleput contain only a Repetition of the continual Ravages committed by the Enemy in those parts & his Distress for Money, for want of which most of the Nabob's Peons, Carpenters Bricklayers Cooleys &c are deserted to the Enemy.

Lieutenant Smith at Covelon, *alias* Saudet Bander mentions that there are two hundred and fifty of the Enemy arm'd with Matchlocks at a Village about ten miles from thence. That the Demolition goes on briskly but he is at a great Difficulty to procure Provisions for the Workmen, that as it will be impossible for Cattemarans to transport the Guns &c^{a} from thence hither while the Northerly Winds continue, he desires our Orders.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

Lieutenant Billock writes from Poonamallee that Abdul Vahab Cawn join'd him the 5th with about two hundred Horse and one hundred Foot but without Ammunition and their Arms are in such bad Order that it will be to no purpose to march 'till they are better furnish'd; That the Nabob's Brother would be glad to purchase three or four hundred Stand of Arms and desires to know whether we can furnish him.

The President return'd for Answer that We have no Arms to spare.

He also wrote to Captain Dalton that he thinks it very necessary a Quantity of Grain should be secur'd and that he must press the Tanjoreens to join him.

Which the Board approve.

Agreeable to what Lieutenant Smith writes We are of Opinion it will be impossible for Cattemarans to bring the Cannon &c^{a} from Saudet Bander during the Northerly Monsoon, Agreed therefore that the Arcot Snow be dispatch'd there for that purpose and that a Detachment of Military be sent on her to oppose any Attempt the French may make to interrupt the Demolition of that Fort.

THO^{S} SAUNDERS
CHA^{S} BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R} WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

Monday the 15th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R} GOV^{R} PRES^{DT}
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH.

The Military Correspondence read.

Major Lawrence writes from Camp at Trivedy, that he arriv'd there the 6th that the 9th in the morning a strong party of French & Morattas brought three pieces of Cannon to a Tope near the Village and fir'd on our Seapoys whereupon he detach'd the Grenadiers & Piquet to oppose them & follow'd himself with the rest, that he soon took their Guns and pursued them four miles in which several Smart Rencounters happen'd, but could by no means bring them to a General Action though their whole Body on the greatest part came to support their Van. That the French behav'd in the most cowardly Manner not daring to come within reach of the Nabob's Shott, by which means the Morattas suffer'd greatly and all the Artillery taken belonged to Moraree, on our part we lost several Seapoys and had a good many Europeans wounded, amongst whom Lieut^{t} Morrice in the Knee but not dangerously. That he is inform'd Moraree is greatly disgusted with Moñs^{r} Dublan (who commanded the French Forces) for not supporting his People, which may have a good Effect. That the Tanjour Horse have not yet join'd the Nabob but that he hears a thousand of them are within two days march and he has wrote to their Commanding Officer.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly advises that in order to keep his Seapoys in readiness having found it necessary to encamp without the Town, the Rajah was much alarm'd and sent Kiroudy Cawn Word he would recall Moraree but when it came to the point he declar'd that he would do it only in case the Nabob would give him the Fort or a Crore of Rupees, that thereupon and having at the same time receiv'd certain Intelligence of Moraree's Hostilities; He, at Kiroudy Cawn's Request determin'd to make an Attempt on the Mysore Camp and accordingly after leaving a sufficient Security for the Garrison, march'd in the Night and although five hundred of his Seapoys miss'd their way in the Dark yet with the Rest of his Men

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

he attack'd their Camp with such Vigour & Success that in less than three Quarters of an Hour they were entire Masters of it having lost but one European and two Seapoys wounded; that during the whole Action his Military behav'd with great Coolness and never offer'd to plunder; The Seapoys took a great Number of Horses, Firelocks and as much Plunder as they could carry off that upon this Success he resolv'd to Bombard Syringham the following Night, the Event of which he relates in the following Letter viz$^{t.}$

Sir, Trichenopoly January 5$^{th.}$ 1753.

In my last I gave you an account of our having routed the Rajah and Moraree's Camp in the Night and of their having shelter'd themselves within the Walls; in consequence of which last Night I resolv'd to bombard them and accordingly attack'd a Choultry within six hundred Yards of the Place which we easily carried and having Cooleys &c. ready immediately intrench'd the Part of it that was open with a strong Wall and put a Company of Seapoys on the Top of it. I think it was as strong a Post as ever I saw and we all thought it as safe as Trichenopoly. When I had regulated every thing I left Lieut$^{ts.}$ Wilky and Crow there with seventy Military and three hundred Seapoys and Lieut$^{t.}$ Wood with a twelve Pounder and a Half Pound Gun. For still the greater Security I lodg'd myself with the Remains of my Command within Pointblank Shot to support them.

The Enemy appear'd out of the Pagoda and made a Push with their Seapoys at the Choultry but were repuls'd with great Ease and no small Slaughter; They came however again about twelve o Clock with their whole Force, Horse and Foot all round. The bloodiest Action ensued that I believe has ever been seen in this Part of the World for they had intoxicated their People with Bang and they rode on very surprizingly. However as their Horse made the boldest Attack and I was sure the Post was in no Danger from them we kept a hot Fire on them, and repuls'd them twice leaving the Ground strew'd with their Dead; Notwithstanding this they made a third Charge and our Rascally Seapoys gave way which discourag'd the Europeans so much that though they had but two or three wounded and close intrench'd they quitted their Officers and ran out of the Post, the natural Consequence of which was that the Horse instantly charg'd them in their Disorder and kill'd or wounded almost the whole, notwithstanding the Fire of my Party; Encourag'd by their Success they made a vigorous Push at my Party but I had rallied the Seapoys and plac'd them behind a little Wall to receive them & we sent them off in great Confusion they rallied again & came up with great Fury calling us all the Names they could invent, but our Grape Shott annoy'd them so much join'd to our continual Fire of Musquetry that they were oblig'd to retreat and we kept our Ground; The Nabob's Horse of which we had about forty, gallop'd a little way after them and took the Horses of those that were kill'd; The Rajah has just now sent Word that he desires a Cessation of Arms that both Parties may bury their dead of which there is more than ever I saw in my Life all put together. You'll certainly perceive Sir that if my People had not so imprudently quitted their Post we had gain'd a compleat Victory; These are Accidents Mankind can't foresee, with regard to myself I leave the Nabob who was a Spectator from the Wall and publick Report to satisfy you of my Management and what Efforts I made.

Lieutenants Wilky and Crow with about sixty men as near as I can compute are missing. When the Enemy retreated I brought off the Wounded in all about nineteen Men with Lieut^{t} Wood who I hope will do well. I'll send you particular Returns tomorrow; as well of the Military as Seapoys; of the latter in the whole Action I believe we have near one hundred missing. The Enemy themselves own nine jemidars and three hundred Men kill'd besides Numbers wounded; The Nabob says they have lost above six hundred men and I really can't see how it could be otherwise. • Since the Action no Hostilities have been committed on either Side; The Daloway has wrote the Nabob a sort of palavering Letter in which he says we

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*———

had best be Friends. I have turn'd out the Mysoor Peons and the Killedar has a Guard over Gopaul Rauze so that all is quite easy within. I sent the Peons out with their Arms, Baggage and every thing that belong'd to them.

I am

Sir Your very obedient Servant

J. DALTON

The President's Letters are to the following Effect viz^{t}.

To Major Lawrence that the Cattemaran Fellows carried the General Letters of the 30th. Ultimo directly to Pondicherry and deliver'd them to M^{r}. Dupliex and as this is an Affair of Consequenee we are endeavouring to find out the Agent, that the Nabob's Hircárs from Balazarows Camp report that Salabat Jung report that Salabat Jung had told the French to return to their Settlements which was not granted and that Schemes were contriving to destory them, that Balaza Row was on the Banks of the Kistnah with seventy thousand Horse, twelve of which would be sent to the Nabob's Assistance with a Seerpaw and Phirmaund from Salabat Jung for the Carnatick.

To Captain Dalton that as our Loss in the late Action was much more considerable in Proportion than the Daloway's it behoves him in future to be extremely circumspect and that he should have disarm'd the Mysore Peons when he turn'd them out of Trichenopoly.

Which the Board approve.

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

Monday the 22^{d}.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}. GOV^{R}. PRESID^{T}.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALRXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

General Letters from Mess^{rs}. Robert Westgarth and Thomas Taylor at Syrian read as follows viz^{t}.

TO THE HOÑBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &C^{A}. COUNCIL AT FORT S^{T}. GEORGE.

Honble Sir & Sirs

I now send you an account of my Proceedings in regard to the Reestablishing this Factory.

I have receiv'd by the Porto Bello the Sundries your Honour &c^{a}. thought fit to send for Presents, but as they were not near sufficient I applied to M^{r}. Thomas Taylor to supply me with what I wanted from him, which he readily did, I presume you will think the Presents Extravagant, but as the French had given such large ones before, that I did not care to make my Honble Masters look mean for a Trifle so thought better to equal the French than be behind with them.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

On the 24th. Ultimo I went to Pegu with the Present & Letter & carried with me Messrs. Taylor & Grierson, on which I sent to inform the King of our Arrival, who gave us an immediate Audience and receiv'd us in great State and after presenting the Letter it could not be read that day so were desir'd to wait on him the day following, he enquir'd Mr. Taylors Business which I told him was to settle the Negrais & when he found it belong'd to the King of Pegu he came immediately here to apply to him for it, on which the King said they were right to apply to him as that was a part of his Dominions and if the Company had mention'd Mr. Taylor to him in the Letter that he should have the Negrais or any place that might suit the Company's Business which gave us some Satisfaction, that the King should promise it before he had read the Letter, accordingly we waited on him next day where he receiv'd us on his Throne with his Crown and Robes & set us at the Head of his Nobles which was an honour he did not pay the French which they seem to be affronted at and after giving us a Welcome he had the Letter read, appointing me Resident of this Place on which he was well pleas'd and promis'd me all the former Priviledges that ever the Company had & he would send his Brother to Syrian in two or three days to deliver me the Ground which was done in great State and Form on which I made the Preliminaries inclos'd & shew'd them to Upper Rajah at which he was very well pleas'd and gave me a Phirmaund for the Factory &ca. with all former Priviledges, so beg you will favour me with your Instructions how I am to proceed in regard to this Place & concerning the Saluting of Ships that Salute the Flag and as the Factory is a Heap of Ruins I should be glad to know what State it must be put in, for the present I am putting a Bamboo Fence round the Bounds but as this place is subject to frequent Fires in the dry Season it would be safest to have the House and Banksalls built with Brick and a Plank Fence round the Bounds as was formerly.

After having done our Business with the King we waited on Upper Rajah who gave us many Assurances of their Friendship and gave us his firm Promise that nobody should have the Negrais but the English Company tho' the French had apply'd for it before but had been deny'd, Mr. Taylor seem'd a little uneasy they did not give him immediate Possession, we press'd him much to give us Assurance that the French should not have it which he has done in as solemn a Manner as Words will produce and when you apply for it you will find they will not deviate from their Province and as it will be attended with a new Expence, you may have both Negrais as easy as one and in my Opinion the great Negrais will be of as much or more Advantage than the little ones, be pleas'd to apply for them both in your Letters to the King and Upper Rajah and write them both a Complaisant Letter of Thanks for their favours to me which will be kindly taken by them and please to let your Letters be wrote in the Malabar Language as that can be best translated here and send Copies of them in English that we may know the true Translation.

I have look'd all about this place for a better Spot for our Factory and have had the Advice of Mr. Taylor and the other English Gentlemen here concerning a Place that I had pitch'd upon, but they find many Inconveniencies which has made me leave off all Thoughts concerning it.

I am with great Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Robt. Westgarth.

Syrian
10th. October 1752.

PRELIMINARY ARTICLES AGREED TO BY UPPER RAJA ON SUNDAY THE 1st. OCTOBER 1752.

Article 1st. That all Places in the King of Pegu's Dominions that ever belong'd to the Honble Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies be deliver'd to Mr. Robert Westgarth their Resident for their Use with all their former Priviledges

and Liberties to be granted to him and the Government of this place are not to interfere in any Affairs that may be detrimental to the Honble Company or any British Subjects under their Flag.

2d. On the Arrival of the Company's Ships immediate Dispatch to be granted (on their Arrival) and the Company to pay half the Duties other Merchants pay and the Goods to be taken as they arise and not to be pick'd and all Money and Stores for the use of their Shipping to pay no Duties.

3 That all Differences among Strangers that are under the English Flag are to be decided by the Resident here and not to be permitted to apply to the Country Government and all our People are to be punish'd by our own Laws.

4 That all the Honble Company's Ships may have Liberty to go from this Place according to the Dispatch that their Affairs may require acquainting the King first of it and the Government of Syrian are not to be of any Hindrance to them but to assist them as much as may be requir'd and to be permitted a free Trade to all parts of the Kingdoms of Pegu and Ava and to export all Commodities that those Kingdoms produce.

5 That all Merchants that buy our Goods on Trust are to pay for them according to Contract and not to return them back on our Hands unless we be willing to take them and that we have Liberty to imprison or use them as they deserve.

6 That on the Death of any British Subjects here, the Government are not to interfere in any Respect concerning their Estate on any Pretence whatever.

7 That the Company are permitted to build and repair whatever Ships they may have occasion for and you are to assist them in procuring Timber Plank &ca. as their Affairs may require and you are not to take our Lascars nor protect them and in case they make Application to you, You are to send them immediately to the Resident.

A true Copy.

Robt. Westgarth Residt.

To the Hoñ'ble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President & Governour &ca. Council of Fort St. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

This is to advise you I have sent the Sloop Fortune to Vizagapatam with the Duplicates of my Letters sent by Captain Jenkins; As it is so late in the year She could not arrive time enough with you to send any Advices with the Shipping bound here and She will be able to come back at any time with any Advices your Honours shall be pleas'd to send. I have order'd Captain Hammond to follow the Orders he shall receive from Mr. Pigot.

Since my last Upper Rajah has ask'd me to spare him what Ammunition I can as he has a great Demand for it; I have let him have ten Cask & told him it was all I could spare at present and when that was us'd if he would write me the Necessity he had for more I would let him have what I could, he ask'd me if I would sell it, I told him I had no Authority for so doing but as we was the King of Pegu's Friends I did not doubt but the Company would assist him in any thing that was in their Power. I have nothing more at present to acquaint you with but that I am

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your Honours most Obedient
& most humble Servant
Thomas Taylor

Syrian
14th. October 1752.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*———

General Letter from Messrs. Starke and Lawrence acknowledging the Receipt of our Duplicates of the 30th. Ultimo and assuring us that they will never scruple to give their Opinions freely on whatever may occur & that Major Lawrence will write the President constantly of the Steps he may take.

General Letters read from Father Angelo de St. Gertrude at Covelon who stiles himself Ambassador from the Emperor, asserting his Masters Claim and Pretensions to the Ground whereon that Fort is built and consequently to the Fort itself and protesting against the Demolition of it. Agreed that a Letter be wrote by the President acquainting him that the Fort is the Nabob's whose Ancestors built it and by his Orders it is now demolishing, that we have nothing to do with it but are ready to do him any Service in our Power.

The Military Correspondence read vizt.

Major Lawrence writes from Camp at Trividy that he is of Opinion no time should be lost in sending somebody to Balazarow and endeavour to secure him by Presents or Promises for should he be otherwise than our Friend the Province will be overrun. That he don't think it adviseable to attack the Enemy without some Horse to cover the Flanks and the Tanjoreens have not yet join'd the Nabob, their doing it at this time would be of great Advantage as a successful Attack on the Enemy would be particularly serviceable should it prove true that Salabat Jung is gone to Aurungabad and that Balazarow is coming this way, That the Enemy are entrench'd on the Banks of the Penniar River and he is inform'd their Scheme is by small Parties to cut off our Provisions in which he thinks they cannot succeed; that as the Scene of Action will to all Appearance be in this Province he thinks it would be proper to write immediately to the other Settlements for all the Troops that can be spar'd; That with respect to the Officers Commissions he apprehends Mr. Patterson and some others who are made Lieutenants were Junior Ensigns to Messrs. Crow & Harrison and that the last nam'd Gentleman had a right to be promoted Senior to them.

Captain Dalton advises that since the late Action the Enemy keep close within the Walls of Syringam and beat the Nagors all Night, that his Command is now so much reduc'd that he dare not venture near enough to bombard it but that he fires an eighteen Pounder into the Pagoda every hour which cannot miss killing many Men and Horses as they are so crouded, that notwithstanding the late Loss he thinks he has yet sufficient Force to protect Trichenopoly but if it should be judg'd proper to dislodge the Mysore People a Reinforcement will be necessary as well as the Tanjour Horse.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot advises that he is inform'd the French who were at Vellour are gone to Pondicherry with some Treasure and that Mootaz Ally the Phousdar has made two unsuccessful Attempts upon Chittour but still continues thereabouts which has induc'd him (Sanderson) to detach one hundred and fifty Seapoys with a hundred Horse to the Assistance of that Place.

Lieut. Billock writes that he arriv'd at Conjeveram the 16th. and having Intelligence that a Party of three hundred French Seapoys with some Europeans and two Field Pieces were at a Village a few miles from thence he immediately march'd to attack them but before he could reach the Place they fled to Trivitore which on his Approach they abandon'd to him and he took Possession of the Town & Pagoda.

The most material Parts of what the President writes to Major Lawrence are as follows vizt.

"If Credit can be given to the Report from the Nabob and others concerning "Balazarow he is in our Interest, Experience indeed has sufficiently convinc'd us "that Alliances with these People are very precarious, if a moderate Present could "be attended with any Certainty it might be an Inducement to make it but can we "bestow as largely as Salabat Jung, the Mysore King and the French, if not I am "apprehensive a large Present from them would swallow up ours; tis said a Body "of Balazarows People are detach'd to join the Nabob.

——FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.——

"You judge extremely right in regard to the want of Horse & cannot be too "circumspect. I wish I knew how to remove this Difficulty, but the only Resource "I can think of is the King of Tanjour who has wrote me he has sent one thousand.

"I should think the Morattas in the Neighbourhood of Pondicherry must be "very inconvenient to the French and if they pay them, Expences must run high; I "conjecture Mr. Dupliex expects a Reinforcement from the Islands, from Europe I "don't suppose he will have any before next Season, and if any are design'd them from "the Malabar Coast, Mr. Dorrill who is a near Neighbour to them there is quite "silent.

"I now enclose you a Court of Enquiry before whom some Depositions have "been taken in regard to Mr. Demare; I have avoided the Severity of putting him "under Arrest and as this Affair concerns Captain de Gingins Reputation, the "Opinion of yourself and all the Officers would certainly be agreeable to him and "much so to me. Two Evidences depose the Truth of it; Mr. Demare denies it; I "am a Stranger to what Reparation is usual in these Cases, to ruin him I think is "rather too severe.

"In a former Letter I mention'd to you, Messrs. Holt and Robinson who were "willing to take Service.

"As Affairs are, Captain Dalton must be circumspect and reduce his Plan to a "much narrower Compass.

"Of two Packets from St. David today, one had been open'd by the Morattas "so that I have no Advices.

The Board having consider'd of Major Lawrence's Advice to write to the other Settlements for what Troops they can spare are of Opinion that it may be of great Service to the Affairs of this Coast, Agreed therefore to press that Point to the Gentlemen at Bombay and Bengal.

The Board having also deliberated on the Intelligence lately receiv'd from different Quarters that a large Detachment from Balazarow are arriv'd on the Banks of the Kistna and that he has accommodated Matters with Salabat Jung who is gone to Aurungabad are of Opinion that as the French will very probably endeavour to ingratiate themselves with Balazarow (whose Force is capable of turning the Ballance to which Side soever he inclines) we should if possible prevent it and that the most natural Means in our Power are to send a trusty and capable Person to him to offer an Alliance and at the same time solicit him to send a Body of Troops to the Nabob's Assistance which if we should be so fortunate as to succeed in may be the means of restoring Peace and Tranquillity to this distracted Province, of humbling Mr. Dupliex's proud Spirit and reducing his Ambitious Schemes to their proper Limits.

The Arcot Snow purchas'd by Mr. Hunter for the Company's Service having on a Survey been found unfit for that Purpose and therefore Ordered to be sold and as the Negotiations now carrying on at Pegu require a Vessel of small Burthen to be constantly employed between this and that Place it is thought more for the Company's Advantage to purchase than hire one at Freight and the Fortune Sloop lately return'd from thence (a Vessel proper for the Occasion being offer'd to Sale for fifteen hundred Rupees which on a Survey is judg'd a very moderate Price, 'tis Agreed to purchase her on our Honble Masters Account for the aforesaid Purposes.

THOS. SAUNDERS.
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JANUARY 1753.*——

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 29th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R. GOV^R. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The Military Correspondence read viz^t.

Major Lawrence observes that Affairs to the Northward seem to be in such Confusion that nothing but Time will unravel the Mystery and shew us who are Friends and who Enemies that if Balazarow should come this way we certainly ought to endeavour at securing him in the Nabob's Interest but that when he mention'd a Present he did not mean to vie in that particular with the Mysore King but only propos'd it as a Mark of our Esteem and perhaps the securing to him the Chout of Arcot might engage him to act with us; That he is in hopes the Tanjour Horse will soon join the Nabob which will remove many Difficulties. That he does not imagine we have much to fear from any Reinforcement the French may expect as they 'll hardly outnumber us in Europeans unless the Grand Army should come down and by all Accounts that is pretty well employed; In relation to the Appointment of Officers the Major expresses himself as follows.

"As I mention'd a great while ago that whatever Officers you appointed or "promoted would be agreeable to me, and absolutely declin'd having any further "hand in it, I must beg you'll do as you think proper with Messrs. Holt & Robinson, "only I must again urge that all Vacancies be fill'd up the Moment they happen for "the Service requires it.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly writes that he keeps firing into Syringam with two eighteen Pounders which he is inform'd annoys the Enemy so much that they are going to encamp on the other Side of the Calderoon; That the Rajah's Horse have not appear'd of late and that Moraree has sent him a very pressing Letter for his six hundred Horse to come and join him immediately That if the Tanjour Horse were to join him (Dalton) now, it would be of the greatest Advantage but he cannot attempt any thing without them; he is inform'd if a Detachment was to march through their Country they would join him.

Lieutenant Innis at Changleput writes that the several Parties of the Enemy who infest and plunder that Part of the Country having made a Fort call'd Caurandypollam about fourteen Miles from thence, the Place of their Retreat and Magazine for Plunder, he detach'd Ensign Monchenin with fifteen Europeans and one hundred Seapoys to attack it which he did with great Bravery and took it. That there are ten large Villages dependant on it and he thinks one Company of Seapoys would be a sufficient Force to defend it.

Lieutenant Billock advises that he had been oblig'd to abandon Trivitore for want of Provisions and could not prevail on any of the Nabob's People to stay without Europeans and Guns, that on his Return to Conjeveram he was inform'd a Party of French Seapoys and Moratta Horse had attack'd and drove the Nabob's Seapoys and Matchlock out of Mundoor, whereupon he march'd against them and retook the Place; That he is inform'd by all the Nabob Officers none of his People will fight nor continue at their Posts because their Pay is five or six Months in arrear.

The President's Letters read

The most material Part of what he writes Major Lawrence is as follows.

"Captain Dalton has wrote for a Reinforcement, if the King of Tanjour would "join him it might be of Service, if not I think he had better endeavour to throw "what Provisions he can into the Fort and not make any Attempt on Syringam.

"I suppose the Nabob communicates to you the Advices he receives from "Balazarow that it would be needless for me to repeat them, I have receiv'd a Letter "from him inclosing Orders for the Payment of Batta to the several Detachments & "some Money in part of his Debt but so little Regard has been paid to his former "Directions that I much doubt whether they will be of any Signification. He says

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*——

" that Salabat Jung will send him a Saned for the Carnateck and gratify the English " in giving them several Countries, He has often wrote this; He mentions also that " Salabat Jung had been greatly distress'd for Money, that Moortaz Ally Cawn had " petition'd for the Arcot and Trichenopoly Countries, that the Mogul had visited " Gauzedee Cawn's Son and given him a Saned for the Decan Country and that " Balazarow express'd a great Value for him.

" It's impossible to judge of particulars, I think the French are not in so much " Credit as formerly & that Salabat Jung's Affairs are distress'd while the French " and the Moratta are making their Advantages, what I am most apprehensive of is " that the French will ingratiate themselves with Balazarow; Our Purse is but " weak and a small Present would be of no Signification; The only thing I can " think of is to send a Person to him and offer an Alliance, at the same time desire "he would send a Body of Troops to the Nabob's Assistance. There is another " Effort, but I am apprehensive a large Body of Morattas would entirely ruin the " Province; that is to promise to assist him against the King of Mysore.

" As I before wrote I am convinc'd the French wait a Reinforcement, their " Numbers are very inferiour to ours, I mean Europeans, it might be difficult to " attack them in their Intrenchm^ts^ but if you were join'd by the Tanjoreens could " not you encamp so as to distress them for Provisions and oblige them to move.

" The Nabob should by all means fling a large Quantity of Grain into the " several Forts but he is negligent in this as well as other Affairs, please to mention " it to him.

" Inclos'd is Copy of a Letter from Captain Dalton, by Moraree's sending for " his Horse it seems as if they intended an Engagement. I am apprehensive you'll " be under some Difficulty by the want of Horse, by what Captain Dalton writes it's " possible a small Detachment sent to Tanjour might quicken him.

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
THO^S.^ SAUNDERS

To Captain Sanderson at Arcot that if the Nabob's Amuldars will not pay the Seapoys 'tis impossible for us to support the Expence and if they refuse to do it, the Seapoys must be discharg'd.

To Captain Dalton that we shall consider of what Measures are to be taken, in the mean time it is necessary Kiroudy Cawn should get as much Provisions into the Fort as possible.

To Lieutenant Innis, that the Reduction of Caurendeepollam is an agreeable Service but that we cannot spare Seapoys to Garrison it and if we could it would only be an Addition to our Expence as the Nabob's Amuldars can't pay the Batta.

All which the Board approve.

THO^S.^ SAUNDERS
CHA^S.^ BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^R.^ WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

Monday, the 5th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R^ GOV^R.^ PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The Military Correspondence read

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly advises that his continual Firing into Syringham so much annoy'd the Raja that he has been oblig'd to move out and encamp close

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*——

under the Wall next the Calderoon with a high Mud Wall round his whole Camp that he has found means to keep the Morattas with him who are very diligent in stopping all Sorts of Provisions from going into the Fort, that the Rajah has receiv'd a Reinforcement from Caroor and gives out he expects four thousand Horse from Saylum; That the Tanjour Horse are encamp'd near the River but have not join'd him and seem to be frighten'd at the Threats of Moraree & the French.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot writes that the Party he sent to the Relief of Chittour has been repuls'd with the Loss of their Gun and Ammunition, that the Place is closely besieg'd and must certainly surrender very soon if not reliev'd but that though Abdul Vahab Cawn has been several Times advised of it, he continues at Conjeveram without making any Attempt to succour it.

Lieutenant Bilhock writes that upon Intelligence of a thousand French Seapoys & Matchlocks, a hundred Moratta Horse ten Europeans and fifteen Topasses with five Guns being near Trivitore he immediately march'd and attack'd them, that the Engagement lasted about an hour and prov'd in the End Successful having taken their Guns and Ammunition with a great many small Arms the Nabob's Horse pursued them two Miles and took six Europeans and ten Topasses with some Seapoys who are all dangerously wounded.

Lieutenant Smith at Covelon advises that the Arcot Snow which had been driven to the Southward is return'd to that Place and that he hopes he shall be able soon to dispatch her.

On receiving Captain Sanderson's Letter advising the Distress of Chittour, the President wrote to Lieut^{t}. Bilhoch to march immediately with Abdul Vahab Cawn's and our Forces to the Relief of that Place and after finishing that Affair to return to Conjeveram.

Which the Board approve.

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Mouday, the 12th

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}. GOV^{R}. PRESID^{T}.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The President lays before the Board the Military Correspondence which is read.

Major Lawrence advises that the Army having been oblig'd to march from Trivedy to Trevendupuram as an Escort for Money & Ammunition the Morattas surrounded them as soon as they were out of Trivedy Village & made several Attempts on their Rear and Baggage but without Success though they made the March very long & troublesome and were oblig'd to dispute every Inch; that we had about eighty Seapoys wounded, one European kill'd and three wounded and their Loss was more considerable. That in the Absence of the Army the Enemy appear'd before Trivedy and the French Commandant sent two Troopers to Cap^{t}. Chase with a verbal Message summoning him to surrender the Fort to the Nabob but on the Killedar's Refusal they thought proper to march away the same day and the Morattas with great Indignation follow'd them, that Moraree seems to be greatly disgusted at the Cowardly Behaviour of his Allies and sent a Message to the Nabob telling him he was sorry such old Friends should quarrel and that he would return to his own Country. That the Tanjour Horse have not join'd the Nabob though he sent a Detachment to meet them. That he has spoke to the Nabob about providing for his

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*——

Garrisons which he has promis'd to do. The Major also encloses a Letter to him from the Mysore Daloway full of heavy Complaints and insisting on being paid what the Nabob owes him or to be put in Possession of Trichenopoly.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot and Lieut^{t}· Bilhoch write that Murtaz Ally Cawn the Veloor Phousdar on the Approach of our Forces under the Command of the latter, rais'd the Siege of Chittoor and retreated to Nelloor from whence he has sent Proposals of Peace to Abdul Vahab Cawn.

Lieutenant Innis at Changleput advises that one French Voluntier & four private Men had by the Carelessness of the Seapoys made their Escape, that the Nabob's Amuldar has promis'd as soon as the Paddy is cut (which will be in about a Fortnight) to lay in a sufficient Stock for the Use of the Garrison.

Lieutenant Smith at Covelon writes that every thing being now in readiness it is resolv'd to blow up the Gateways of the Fort tomorrow.

The Presidents Letters are to the following Effect viz^{t}·

To Major Lawrence, that as to the Dalloway's Letter, his Demand cannot be complied with for the reasons often ment^{d}· That if Balazarow should come this way he thinks the best Sch[eme] would be for him to encamp beyond Arcot and detach ten or twe[lve] thousand Horse which might be sufficient to settle Affairs here. That he has again press'd the King of Tanjour to send his Horse. That 'tis probable the French will receive a Reinforce[ment.] That by an intercepted Letter it appears the Commanding Offic[er] at Madura is acting for the French; That Captain Polier's Com[pany] of Swiss will be sent up hither from Bengal.

To Captain Dalton that a Reinforcement cannot be sent him at present, that his chief Care must be the Security of the Fort which he must not expose to any Risque.

To Lieutenant Billock directing him to return with the Forces to Conjeveram.

Which the Board approve.

THO^{s}· SAUNDERS
CHA^{s}· BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}· WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

13th In consequence of the Resolution in Consultation the 22^{d}· January that it would be adviseable to send a Vakeel to Balazarow; The President after a careful Scrutiny into the Character & Capacity of Kistnazey Punt, thinking him the properest Person at present to be found to execute this Service, accordingly appointed him thereto and he set out this Morning with Instructions purporting agreeable to the said Consultation and a Letter from the President to Balazarow dated yesterday, assuring him of our great satisfaction in hearing of his Intentions to settle this Province, that this has been our sole View which the Mysore King and Moraree have prevented, that we desire he will send ten or twelve thousand Horse to the Nabob which will soon effect it, that we would willingly join him according to his Desire but our moving would give the Enemy an Opportunity of burning and ravaging the Country, that we are willing to enter into an Alliance with him and as soon as Affairs are settled here assist him with our Troops.

14 Receiv'd a Letter from Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly advising that Lieutenant Wood is dead of the Wounds he receiv'd in the late Action, but the other wounded Men are in a fair way of doing well. That there has been a Skirmish between his Seapoys and some Moratta Horse to the Disadvantage of the latter who retreated into Syringam. That the Morattas have intercepted and taken two hundred Bullocks loaded with Rice that were going to Trichenopoly. That Balazarow has wrote to the King of Tanjour he is coming to visit Ramiseram Pagoda and desires he will prepare for his Reception, he has also wrote to the same Effect to Tondeman, Moravar and the present Raja of Madura.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*——

Receiv'd a Letter from Major Lawrence at Trivedy Camp wherein he mentions that the President having acquainted him Captain Clive is to resign his Employ of Steward at the End of this Month when a new one is to be appointed he had carefully inform'd himself what saving might be made in dieting the Military and finds that four fanams a day for each soldier will be fully sufficient. 15th

A Letter this day receiv'd from Captain Dalton mentions that he is inform'd the Daloway is preparing to march a[way] and that a Detachment of his Troops are going to the R[elief] of Dindegal which it is reported the Collerys have besieged but that it wants Confirmation. 16th

Lieutenant Bilhock writes that the Nabob's Brother having prevail'd on him to go towards Vellour to raise Contributions, in the March they took a strong Pagoda where the Enemy had left a hundred Seapoys and Matchlocks; That Abdul Vahab Cawn has receiv'd a Letter from the Killedar of Veloor wherein he refuses to pay any Tribute and says he is ready to engage him if he comes that way. 18th

On Receipt of which Letter the President wrote to Lieutenant Bilhock to return to Conjeveram immediately on penalty of his Commission agreeable to the former Orders sent him which he ought to have obey'd notwithstanding any Perswasion of the Nabob's Brother to pursue contrary Measures.

Lieutenant Grenville at Poonamalee advises that a Party of five hundred Morattas have been plundering near Mannagulum and drove off a great Number of Cattle. 19th

Receiv'd a Letter from Major Lawrence, Copy whereof follows viz^{t}. 20th

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}.

Sir Trividy Camp Febry 15th. 1753.

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 10th Ins^{t}. it is very certain that the Daloways Friendship would have procur'd us Peace or ruin'd the Nabob's Enemies long since; but if you look on him in the Light I do, as an Ambitious Man not content with the quiet Possession of what he has but who wants to enlarge his Dominions and make an Advantage of the Country Troubles, it will appear we have no good to hope from him at any Rate, His View is on Tanjour as well as Trichenopoly and unless you give into his whole Scheme (which would leave us worse than he found us) you only confirm him an eternal Enemy; His hesitating to produce the Letters he talks of makes me think the whole Affair is without any Ground, however it will be a Colour for detaining Vencatrow as long as you please.

The King of Mysore [wrote to] the President that [captains] DeGingins & Cope [had] by Letters guaranteed [the] Surrender of Trichenapoly to him which Letters his Vakeel Vencatrow wou'd produce

Balazarow's Vakeel was with me yesterday and promises a lasting Friendship on the Part of his Master to the English and Nabob. I wish he could be prevail'd on to send ten or twelve thousand Horse this way, we should soon be able to do the Business here and carry the War a little further off if it was necessary. He seems greatly incens'd against the Velloor Phousdar and the King of Mysore, and the assisting him to reduce them to Obedience is the best way of gaining him to our Interest. I have wrote him a Letter of Compliment and press'd his letting us have some Horse speedily. Would not it be proper to prepare an Address for him containing an Account of the Part we have acted and what steps we have taken in the present War; That we have no other View but to settle the Peace of the Country and that we shou'd be glad to meet him with all our Troops and Artillery, if we were not certain that the Enemy would take the Advantage of our Abse[nce] and plunder and destroy all before them; Something of this Kind back'd with a small Present might I think obtain us a part of his Force which would do much better than the whole.

The Vakeel has been press'd to make good his Masters Assertion but [he sti]ll evades it, upon [which] the President [...] the Major that he [wou'd] detain him here [...] comply'd.

The King of Tanjour has behav'd very ill in deceiving us but we must make Allowances for the Country Fashion and he seems to be threaten'd with plundering should he join us.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*———

A Recruit of Officers will always be agreeable Messrs. Merriman and Green are I hear at S^{t} David.

In regard to M^{r} Demare I own it would please me better to have had him disgrac'd than permitted to resign the Service, for unless Examples are made we shall have People kicking against their Commanding Officer every Day however it will be necessary to write to the other Settlements that he may have no Chance of getting employed there if he is to remain in India.

I am glad the new Steward will have every thing in readiness and shall like to hear the Conditions you have made with him. I address'd you and the Council the other day on this Subject and had the Pleasure to tell you the Military may be victuall'd for near two Thirds of the present Expence. When I reflect on the Prodigious Saving to our Honble Masters the regulating this one Particular will give according to my Calculation which makes it amount to no less a sum for two thousand Men than one hundred & eleven thousand (111000) Rupees in one Year should the Troubles continue so long, which God forbid; It makes me sincerely hope no more Time will be lost in setting heartily about the Reduction of Expences in other Things that greatly want to be enquired into. To shew you that I have not given my Opinion without considering every Circumstance if you can get no body that will undertake to diet the Soldiers and Prisoners for four fanams a day each I am ready to do it myself and if ever I propose any Scheme of saving for the future you are at Liberty to make the Experiment on me first, if it appears impracticable to others who would make Fortunes out of the Company's Additional Charges and find nothing too exorbitant that brings in money; for I shall always think myself happy and my Time well spent if in the Course of my Duty I can by any means contribute to their Benefit, to whom I have sworn to be faithfull.

Two French Troopers summon'd Trivedy in the Name of the Nabob but did not tell who he was, Our People to their Demand reply'd no which was all the Discourse that pass'd.

I hear Morary Row is dissatisfied with the French because they don't pay him & won't fight, their Reinforcem[ent] can't hurt us if we had but Horse.

I shall speak to the Nabob about his Orders; His Brother must be made to take Notice of them.

We have not been able to get any more Horses, Maskelyne wrote me some time ago that Patterson was appointed Adjutant. I have heard of Abdul Bob Cawn's Success & seen the intercepted Letter from Madura.

I hope the Swiss will behave better here than at Bengal; Captain Polier will be a good Reinforcement. I should think a great many Men might be spar'd from Fort S^{t} George for M^{r} Hunter without weakening us and your Garrison would be well mann'd as Affairs are at present with [on]e hundred Europeans in it; However if you are of another Opinion Please to order as many from hence as you judge necessary.

Six French Deserters are come over who make their Europeans but two hundred and sixty. A General Dissatisfaction reigns amongst all their People. I have little news both Armies are inactive as it would not be worth our while to attack them without doing it to the Purpose and the Nabob's Horse are not worth Six Pence.

Serjeant Dukenson at Trichenopoly is recommended by every one he has serv'd under as a careful Man and fit to succeed Lieut^{t} Wood, if therefore you think proper to make him a Train Officer I believe it would be for the Good of the Service. I am with the greatest Respect.

Sir

Your most humble and most

Obedient Servant

STRINGER LAWRENCE.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*——

The foregoing Letter having been communicated to the several Gentlemen of Council and their Opinion taken thereon the President under this Date address'd the Major as follows 22d

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^R. 22^d. February 1753.

Sir

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 15^th. Febry without number and that to the Governour & Council of the 10^th.

I am glad you concur with me that the Expences may be lessen'd in dieting the Military, it shall be settled as soon as possible.

What you write concerning the Daloway's Ambition and his possessing Trichenopoly and Tanjour is if you recollect our General Opinion enter'd upon Record before you left us, Should Balazarow come he certainly will by a large Sum endeavour to gain his Point.

I don't hear any thing lately of Balazarow or his Troops being advanc'd nearer, I before advis'd of our having sent a Vakeel to him from whom I hope to learn his Intention, his Vakeel has been here, with the Daloway, the French, Moraree, the King of Tanjour and the Nabob to inform himself of all Circumstances, his Master promises very fair; I wish his and our Interest may be the same as I am perswaded he will do his own Business.

Inclos'd is Copy of a Letter receiv'd from the King of Tanjour, what I thought proves to be the case, he alledges that 'tis Harvest Time and is apprehensive of his Country being plunder'd. If you think his Horse would be of more Service than one hundred of our Men you may make an Offer to send that Number to act with his Troops in the Tanjour Country.

It's said the French will have from Bengal about one hundred Men, most of them Swiss that have deserted from us, and Men from on board our Ships and I believe one hundred and fifty more from another Quarter.

Captain DeGingins would I believe have been satisfy'd with a less Severe Penalty than the taking away M^r. DeMare's Livelihood if ill natur'd People had not concern'd themselves with it.

I suppose the Nabob has given you a Letter wrote him by M^r. Dupliex concerning dieting the Prisoners.

I shall order Serjeant Dickenson a Commission.

As you see the slow Motions of the Tanjoreens please to give me your Opinion whether you think any thing can be done without them.

I can't see how it's possible for us to move any great Distance to join Balazarow; The Enemy must plunder and destroy everything. I am, Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THO^S. SAUNDERS

The President also wrote this day to Captain Dalton directing him to urge in the Strongest Terms to Kiroudy Cawn, the necessity of storeing the Fort with Provisions. 22nd

Letters from Captain Dalton say that there is yet no Certainty but a very great Appearance of the Daloways moving. That about four hundred Moratta Horse are march'd to join Moraree. That the Buzzars have of late been plentifully stor'd with Rice and other Provisions but Kiroudee Cawn as yet takes no Measures for filling the Magazines. 23rd

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*———

24th Lieutenant Bilhock writes from Chittour that he finds the Nabob's Brother is deceiv'd in his Expectation of raising large Contributions & that he is not likely to get even a Sufficiency to pay his own Troops, that above a hundred of them have offer'd to leave him on account of their pay for four Months and twelve Days Batta being in Arrear.

25. Lieutenant Innis at Changleput advises that having press'd the Amuldar to lay in a Store of Paddy for the Garrison, he reply'd that he is oblig'd to dispose of it as fast as he receives it to supply the Nabob's Demands. That a Party of Morattas having appear'd in Sight of the Fort he detach'd some Europeans and Seapoys in pursuit of them who retook a Quantity of Paddy they had plunder'd in the neighbouring Villages and a Number of Cattle they were driving off.

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

Monday the 26th

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}. GOV^{R}. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

General Letters from Mess^{rs}. Robert Westgarth & Thomas Taylor read as follows viz^{t}.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.
PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOUR &C COUNCIL
AT FORT S^{T} GEORGE.

Honble Sir & Sirs

I hope you have receiv'd my last by the Yorkshire Grey and Fortune Sloop and now with a great deal of Sorrow am to inform you that after the Arrival of my Snow with the Treasure &c you sent M^{r}. Taylor & me, we went to Pegu to inform the King what Money you had sent which they have taken one ℔ cent for on account of Godown and Custom House Officers and the King has let go his Part and says when the Company sends a great Quantity of Goods he will then take his Customs but I suppose he has his Reasons for doing this as he intends to send his Ship to Madrass In which time my House was unfortunately burnt with almost every thing in it and all my Books & Papers entirely consum'd with many other Things of Value, I have sav'd great Part of the Treasure but there is some of it melted, that I can't as yet exactly tell what, but it is no great Quantity; I now send you an account to the best of my Remembrance what I have receiv'd and disburs'd, haveing bought Plank for the Gun Carriages & Sundries for the Repair of the Sloop which is almost compleated, whose Sails & Rigging and one Cable with many things of Captain Grierson's and M^{r}. Taylor's which were put into my House for Safety are entirely consum'd with some of the Carriages and their Moulds, so shall send what Plank I have left, on the Sloop. This Fire happen'd the 28th Ultimo at night, by what means I know not but there are many People here when they want to plunder will go in the Night & throw Fire on Straw Houses on purpose to accomplish their wicked Designs and I know not but this may have been my Case.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*——

Arriv'd here the 4th of November Monsr Bruno from Pondicherry in a small Sloop of about forty Tons, who promis'd to bring the King many fine Cloaths with a Diamond of half an Ounce Weight and five hundred Small Arms but has fail'd of all and brought only a small Present and a Letter from Mr. Dupliex, a Copy of which I now send you according to the best Translation I could get.

"To the King of Pegu"

"I sent my People into your Country last year to desire you to deliver them "the Ground the King of Ava formerly gave the French Company, which you have "done and gave my People many promises of your Friendship and that you would "send your Ships to my Port but I have seen none yet, and am surpriz'd you don't "keep your Word with me, for I have never seen any thing that ever belong'd to "you but a Letter which nobody in my Country could read so have sent Mr. Bruno "again to you to know what you intend to do, and if you chuse to keep my Friend- "ship I desire you will help Moñs Bruno to get the new Ship done with the utmost "Dispatch and the Eight Guns he lent you last year, you must deliver back to him "for the use of the Ship, and on his Departure I have order'd him to deliver the "Factory to the Revd. Padree Paulo Nirini till such Time as I send my Orders to him.

Pondicherry "I am
September 1752. "Your Majesty's most humble servant

Dupliex

This Letter was such as the King of Pegu is not accustom'd to and far from being wrote in a pleasing Stile to demand the Guns back which were really given to him, since which Time the King has not nor will not see Mr. Bruno, but has desir'd Upper Rajah to give him some fair Promises which he is very capable of doing but always finds some Excuse for his Noncompliance; Moñs. Bruno has been endeavouring greatly to hurt us, by telling Upper Rajah not to give us the Negrais for the Company wanted to make a strong Fortification there and the Queen of Hungary was to send four Ships to join us & to come here to revenge the Death of Mr. Schonamille. And Mr. Dupliex had given him express Orders to communicate this as a great Secret to the King, to be on his Guard against the English; The Discourse was very private with the Rajah, Bruno, Coja Nicous and Padree Paulo Nirini who was Linguist; This Secret came to be by a Confession of one of the above to an Ecclesiastical Friend of mine here, who told me the whole Affair which gave both Mr. Taylor and Me some Concern and when we waited on the Rajah the other Day; I ask'd him whether it was true or not that Mr. Bruno had been relating such a Story to him, he seem'd to evade this Discourse, so I told him in his own Language not to deceive me for I knew it to be true, "He then said Bruno had been telling him the "Queen of Hungary's Intention of sending here to join with us, on which I told him "if they came here we were ready to fight them, he then desir'd I would give him a "Place near China Bucker, near the River's Mouth and they would make a Fort to "keep away the Ostenders; I told him I could not permit him any such Place so "dismiss'd him and desir'd us not to mind Bruno, for neither the King nor he would "believe a word he said after telling him so many Untruths already".

I must request your Honour & Sirs will please to permit me to build a House to secure your Property from the frequent Fires that happen there and should be glad if you would send me a Plan of such a House as you may think proper for me and as I am oblig'd to go often to Pegu it would be necessary for some Person to be here with me to take care of the Factory in my Absence and if Captain Grierson had not been here you would have been much greater Sufferers than what you are.

You may depend on my Care of the Money you sent me and I shall be as frugal in my Expences as possible and doubt not in time but some Investment may be made for the Company, as there is a great deal of coarse Cloth made here and all of the Produce of the Country Cotton, but the present Difficulty is that there is no security for the Merchants Property and hope if the Negrais is settled it will make an Alteration of Affairs here.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.*———

The King, as a Mark of his Favour, has order'd me to make a Gold Betle Box, a Gold Sword and Gurgelet with a Gold Cover being the greatest Badge of Honour in his Country and desires I will wear that to command Respect, but I shall defer any thing of that Kind 'till I have your Honours Approbation and as you please to refer me to be in the Manner that Messrs. Smart & Kelsall was I should be glad if you can give me any Information. Be pleas'd to comply with the inclos'd Indent, as the Stationary and Cordage were all burnt.

I am with great Respect,

Syrian Honble Sir & Sirs

Janry 5th. 1753. Your most obedient, humble Servant

ROBT. WESTGARTH.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.
PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOUR, &C. COUNCIL
OF FORT St. GEORGE.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your Favour of the 29th October came safe to hand the 21st December with ten thousand Rupees (Rups. 10000) ℔ Neptune Snow.

The frequent fires that happen here makes House Rent very expensive. I have had my House almost pull'd down twice & should have been burnt out had it not been for the People I had about me; Mr. Westgarth had the best House in the Place and was burnt out the 28th of last Month at the Time He and I was at Pegu he has met with a great Loss as very little was sav'd besides the Silver and part of that melted and run amongst the Rubbish, the Sloop has lost all her Sails but two that was making great part of her Rigging and one of her Cables, I have lost part of my Stores likewise which I sent there for Safety and Captain Grierson has lost to the amount of Six or Eight hundred Pagodas in Goods.

Mr. Westgarth and I visited the King and Upper Rajah at the Time Mr. Bruno was there he met with a bad Reception as the King did not like the Letter from Mr. Dupliex which Mr. Westgarth will send you a Copy of; We was receiv'd very handsomely by the King, after making our Compliments, Mr. Westgarth talk'd smartly to him and Upper Rajah about their giving the French the Ground they had as it belong'd to Mr. Tenneree who was an English Subject, although a Frenchman born, all they could say was that they did not know but that he was a French Subject and that we had no Claim to it. However he order'd our Ground to be enlarg'd and desir'd Mr. Westgarth to get an Equipage such as his great Men has, it consists of a Gold Betle Box, a Gold Pipe, a Crooked Sword trimm'd with Gold, a fine Pillow and a Guglet with a Gold Top to it; This the King said would command Respect amongst his People, and that he may have as many Arm'd Men go before him as he pleas'd any where but at Pegu. His Majesty gave us an Audience of two or three hours & talk'd to us in a very amicable Manner; He and Upper Rajah seems to me to be Politick Men, and will wave a Discourse very dexterously when they don't like it and never want an Excuse to evade any Promises they make and when they give any Orders to any Europeans for the Government here, they obey or disobey just as they please and to complain is no more than to make Presents again and the same Orders is given and serv'd as before without any Notice taken; Of this I have seen many Instances with the People who are building of Ships.

Mr. Bruno stay'd some time after us at Pegu & sent for Padre Don Paul de Nirini and Coja Nicous to be witness of the Contract Upper Rajah had made with them as he pretended he had lost, however at last it was found at this Interview they desir'd Upper Rajah to speak to him in Private; The Substance of their Discourse was that Mr. Dupliex had order'd them to tell him and the King not to give us the Negrais for that as soon as we had got it four of the Ostend Ships was our Allies in Europe, would come there and would assist us in making a Fortification and then we

——FORT ST. GEORGE, FEBRUARY 1753.——

should endeavour to take the Country from them. Mr. Bruno had the Assurance as soon as he come down to beg the Favour of Mr. Westgarth to lend him some Plank to finish his Ship, as Mr. Westgarth did not then know that he had been saying any thing to our Disadvantage he let him have some, Bruno then acquainted Mr. Westgarth that he had told Upper Rajah upon his Refusal of the Guns that if we did not take care we would come & take them from him; that Upper Rajah seem'd in a Surprize and said what will the English make War against us; Yes indeed says Bruno. Well says he we can fight too. This I suppose was the Answer he made when they related the above Story; Mr. Westgarth will inform you how he found out the Discourse of the private Interview with Upper Rajah, this made us very uneasy, and we determin'd to go to Pegu as soon as I could go out as I was then much out of Order and the Neptune's Arrival put us off 'till the 26th. December, we then went to Pegu and visited Upper Rajah whom we acquainted with what we heard of Bruno's Discourse with him, he deny'd it at first by telling us they had ask'd for a Place in the false River where they would make a Fortification and so be a means of assisting them against the Ostenders but we insisted upon what we had heard to be true which he could not deny and said neither he nor the King could put any Confidence in what he said for he spoke nothing but what was Untruth, We said what we could to convince him to the Contrary and told him we only wanted to Trade and hop'd that he would assist us therein and that fighting was always an Enemy to Merchandize and that we had no other Views in the War on the Coast than to assist the Nabob of the Country who gives Liberty to trade there, He desir'd us to make ourselves easy about it for he did not believe a Word of the Matter; We went from him to one of the Kings Counsellors who was to introduce us to his Majesty, acquainted him with our Story, he said he had upbraided Bruno with his fine Promises and Nonperformance before & that he did not believe a word he said and promis'd to speak to the King in our Behalf when Opportunity serv'd; The King sent word he would give us an Audience next Morning, we went at the time appointed, he enquir'd of our Business. Mr. Westgarth acquainted him with what his Vessel had brought and desir'd to know the Customs he must pay for the Honble Company's Treasure &c he said for what was come now he would not take any Customs for himself, only that we must pay what was for the Godown &ca. that was over and above his Customs as it was a Perquisite belonging to his People which amounted to one ℔ Cent and when the Honble Company sent a Quantity of Merchandize he would then let us know what the Customs was to be, the Discourse was taken away from us by the Arrival of some Letters so that we could not proceed with our Story but as we was seated next the Privy Council we let them know what we had to say to the King concerning what the French had told Upper Rajah, they said it was not a proper time to talk of that then but they would acquaint his Majesty of it at a more convenient Opportunity and at the same time would say what they could in our favour. They hinted we had not made them any Presents, I promis'd the next time I come to bring them something, and whenever we visit the King, Upper Rajah &c. we are always oblig'd to carry a Present, and judge of the Sincerity of our Friendship by the Presents we make them.

Since I wrote your Honours last I find the news of my being at the Negrais put the King and Government in great Consternation, as it was rumour'd about that four Ships full of Men was likewise there, and the Burmahs took it for granted that we was coming to assist them but I hope his Majesty is convinc'd to the contrary.

I have had two Offers of Persaim to visit me at different Times by order of the Governour there. He with the Rest of the Officers sent me their Compliments & Thanks for the Presents I sent them when I was there and was very desirous to know when I should be with them again. As these People went to the King I enquir'd what he said about our Settling at the Negrais and by them I find the King does not seem inclinable to give us that Place but some other Place more under their Eye.

I have now sent you some different Musters of Cloth that is made in the Country to the Westward of this Place this Cloth is brought here in small Boats for Sale, I have put upon each Piece the Price I bought them at and what People make them.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

I do not doubt but large Investments might be made in time & Quantities of Woollen Cloths sold if we can secure the Merchants Properties by having a Fortification and a Government of our own, All the Merchants here are oblig'd to seem poor whether they are so or no as this Place is so near the King for if they find a man worth any money the King or some of his Government will be sure to bring him into some Snare and make his Pocket pay for it It is a Piece of Policy of the Kings to keep the People poor, more especially the Burmahs and then he thinks they can't make head against him, there is no such Law in the Country as making a Man stand to his Contract and if a Man gives his Note of hand for a Sum of Money for a Parcel of Goods payable at such a Time he may chuse whether he will pay or not, if the seller presses him for the Debt he will apply to the King and Government and plead Poverty; they think they do an Act of Charity to the Distress'd (or more properly the Villain) by ordering him to pay as he can and the Merchant not to press him any more; of this I seen an Instance when I was at Pegu last; By this your Honours may be a judge how Trade can be carried on in this Place, The Country will produce a great deal of Cloth & other Merchandize if the People was not afraid of being oppress'd when they grow rich by the Government for the Commonalty of them seem very industrious for there is not a House but what has a Loom from the Prince to the lowest Sort.

The Channel at the Entrance into the Negrais is very good and by observing the Directions that is in the Coasting Pilot, any Ship may go in with Safety. It is high Water on the full & change Days about 10 °Clock abreast of Pagoda Point. I am, Honble Sir & Sirs Your most obedient and most humble Servant.

THOMAS TAYLOR

The President lays before the Board a List of Sundries which Mr. Hunter thinks necessary and desires to be furnish'd with for the Expedition to the Negrais, Order'd that it be deliver'd to the Storekeeper who is directed to prepare them accordingly.

The President acquaints the Board that since the Resolution in Consultation the 22d. January for disposing of the Arcot Snow, Mr Hunter has represented to him that he thinks that Vessell, being commodious both for Men and Guns may be serviceable on the Expedition either as a Guardship to cover the Works, defend the Approaches at any particular Pass or to lodge the People till Houses or Barracks can be prepar'd to defend them from the Inclemencies of Weather. Agreed therefore that the Sale of the said Snow be deferr'd and that She be put under Mr. Hunter's Direction.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

Monday the 5th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR. GOVR. PRESIDT.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The President lays before the Board a Letter receiv'd from and two wrote to Major Lawrence since last Consultation which are as follow

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR. 27th February 1753.

Sir

A Sea Conveyance offering gives me an Opportunity of advising you that since I wrote you I have receiv'd Letters from the King of Tanjour, he still urges the plundering his own Country as a Reason for his not sending his Troops; I hope the Expedient mention'd to you in my last will remove it. He and the Nabob have

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.* ——

sent some Hircaras here who are going to Balazarow, desiring I would write by the same; Our Vakeel has been gone some time, I hope soon to hear from him; I shall write by these Hircars but don't think it prudent to be too open as the King of Tanjour at present acts a neutral Part.

Inclos'd is Copy of a Letter said to be wrote by M^r. Dupliex to the Nabob, please to advise me whether he communicates Affairs of this Nature to You.

Abdul Vahab Cawn instead of protecting the Places adjacent is gone to Timmery; The Letters I receive from him and the Nabob have generally nothing in them but Requests for Men and Stores and idle Compliments but I find it difficult to get any Money; I have applied to the Conjeveram Renter who says he has not a Cash; The Nabob may plead Poverty but I know he gets Money & some means must be thought of.

Please to advise me of your Opinion of your own and the Enemy's Situation, whether you can be able to attack them and the Methods you judge proper to pursue.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R.

Sir Camp at Trivedy, February 25^th 1753.

You have not heard from me for some time because nothing extraordinary has happen'd, The Morattas and We continue as usual as I see no Prospect of doing any thing to the Purpose without Horse.

Bologee Row has wrote for the Nabob to join him, his answer is that the Enemy's being in his own Country renders it impossible at present but that if he'll send five thousand good Horse to finish the Business here then he'll march to him immediately and assist him in any thing he desires.

We are forc'd to march once a month to S^t. David for money which being very troublesome I wish could be remedied, Our Bazar is now pretty plentiful but any movement will make Things as dear as ever; the Tanjoreens I believe have no Intention of coming; I don't know what to think of Dalton's News about the King of Mysore's going off, 'tis difficult to imagine he'll leave Trichenopoly before the Harvest is over; If you have any Intelligence from the Northward that can be depended on I shall be glad to hear it.

I am

Sir

Your most humble and most Obedient Servant

STRINGER LAWRENCE

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R. Fort S^t. George 2^d. March 1753.

Sir

The accompanying was intended you the 27^th Ult^o. but the Vessell Sailing without Notice gives me an Opportunity to mention the Receipt of Yours of the 25^th Ult^o. without Number.

The Want of Horse is an unlucky Circumstance I don't imagine the King of Tanjore will move 'till he sees his Country secure and the Harvest over.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

Yesterday a Guzarat Merchant receiv'd Advice that Sydoo Lascar Cawn was appointed Duan to Salabat Jung who had told the French that there being no further Occasion for them they might go to Pondicherry. Balazarow it is said was within three days march of the Mysore Country, if this prove true the Daloway's moving will cease to be a Wonder.

I have already wrote Balazarow that we are ready to enter into an Alliance and join him when the Troubles are subsided here, at the same time desir'd him to send twelve thousand Horse to the Nabob's Assistance and as it is not improbable that his going to Mysore may draw off the Daloway so his plundering the others Country may have the same Effect which I shall recommend to him.

I don't see how it is possible to remove the ill convenience of your escorting the Money

Captain Polier arriv'd here on the Godolphin this morning, his Detachment including Officers is near one hundred, they will be sent to S$^{t.}$ David the first Opportunity; I wish you could spare us a few men for the Secret Expedition, as our Garrison will afford but a slight Assistance. I am Sir

Your most obed$^{t.}$ Serv^{t}.
THO$^{s.}$ SAUNDERS

General Letters from Messrs. Robert Westgarth and Thomas Taylor at Syrian read as follow.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq$^{R.}$
President & Governour &c., Council at
Fort S$^{T.}$ George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

I now send you the Duplicates of my last on the Honble Company's Sloop Porto Bello, which has had a thorough Repair with Invoice, Bill of Lading & Sloops Accounts for the Months of January & February and as my Books and Papers were all burnt, I can't give you the particulars of the two preceding Months, there was a great deal of Money laid out for Stores for her Repair which were all destroyed along with those you sent for her; I likewise send you Cash Accounts for last Month; I have sav'd the Bale of Broad Cloth you sent me on the Neptune but have not carried it to your Credit as the Sundries then sent me were burnt and I don't remember the amount of the Invoice but so soon as I receive the Duplicates shall carry it to account. The Cash lost by the Fire is one hundred and ninety Rupees.

I am sorry to tell you of the growing Insolence of Coja Nicous, who has done all he can to overset the Company's Affairs here and a few days ago tyed up a Chief Officer of a Ship in his Banksall & beat him in a most miserable Manner without any Reason, when I reprov'd him for it he seem'd to make but little Account of what I said; I then went to the Roemday to apply for Justice for the Affront he had offer'd to an English Subject under my Jurisdiction where he with his Accomplice went & frighten'd the Linguists that they durst not tell what we had to say; I reprov'd Nicous for the ill Usage he was treating the Company with, he said he did not mind the Company nor what they could do to him I then apply'd to the King and Upper Rajah and desir'd they would not let the Company's People be insulted in this Manner, the latter has promis'd to enquire into the Affair and then will give me Satisfaction, I hear the Rajah has given Nicous a severe Reprimand and has promis'd me that no such Disorder shall happen again.

The King is erecting a spacious Palace and sent for M$^{r.}$ Taylor and Me to compliment him thereon and after giving him our Presents he kept us two days and shew'd us a great deal of Respect, In which time Coja Nicous a second Time with some Armenians got a Commander of an English Ship into his Banksal and

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

wanted him to sign a Paper against his Consent, which he refusing to do 'till I came from Pegu, they threaten'd him with the Stocks & sundry other Punishments 'till at last he sign'd what they wanted, he has gone so far as to say publickly in his Banksal, he will have the Colours taken down and all the English taken out of the Country. I have not said any thing to him here for I find it avails nothing, I believe he is coming over in the King's Ship and I hope your Honours will treat him as he deserves; He and an Italian Priest is erecting a Church here which to me seems to be a Fort cover'd with the Name of a Church and as these two People are much in the French Interest, makes me believe there is some secret Design in this Strong Hold, more than for the Service of God.

I long to hear from you concerning the Negrais there is a Person here I believe has desir'd M^r. Dupliex to apply to the King for it, but I hope he will be prevented.

I shall take care to procure what Plank I can for the Carriages; but at present the King's Palace takes all the Timber & Plank that comes, what formerly was two or three Tecall they now ask six & seven for.

Since writing the above arriv'd a Moors Vessel, advising me that the Fortune Sloop is safe arriv'd at Vizagapatam & I hope you have receiv'd the advices sent on her.

I am with great Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant

Syrian
14^th. Febry 1753.

ROB^T. WESTGARTH

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r.
President & Governour &c Council of
Fort S^t. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

I have herewith inclos'd the Duplicates of my last which I sent by the Neptune Snow; the Perplexity I was in on her Departure on account of the Fires which when begun nobody knows where they will end made me omit answering the Paragraph concerning the Sounding of the Negrais which I could not be more accurate in as the Sloops was so much disabled in their Rigging by the Weather coming over that they were oblig'd both to unrig, the Porto Bello carried away her Topmast and Crossjack Yard and several of her Chain Plates, what men they could spare I employed about my Breast Work wherein I laid near three thousand Fascines but to very little Purpose as the Rain continually wash'd the Earth away and my People daily falling sick with the Ague and Fever quite enabled me from keeping my Work in Repair and raising it a proper Heighth and it was with the greatest Difficulty I survey'd the Island as I did so that I had no Time upon my hands to sound the Channel as it ought to be.

Coja Nicous is very troublesome to us and does all that he can to frustrate our Affairs and make us appear as despicable as possibly he can in the Eyes of the Government, Mr. Westgarth will inform you how he takes upon him to treat People under our Flag and he seems to be determin'd to give us all the Trouble he can, he has wrote Upper Raja who seems to put great Confidence in him that we went to the King's Court of Justice with Arms of all Sorts & frighten'd the Justices out of their Senses when we had not so much as a Rattan in our Hands; We went there to represent the ill Treatment an English Subject had receiv'd in Nicous's Banksall but to no Purpose: M^r. Westgarth wrote to the King about it but he takes no Notice of it, But sent for us up to Pegu with Orders to bring Blocks, Ropes & Lascars to get the

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

Columns of his Palace erected, agreeable to this Summons we went up and arriv'd the 6th Instant We first visited Upper Rajah and made him a Present of Scarlet Cloth and Rose Water, he sat very sullen some time and never spoke to us, M^r^ Westgarth broke Silence by beginning to represent the Insult we had receiv'd. He immediately started up in a violent Passion and ask'd if we did not ask Pardon, M^r^ Westgarth said he did not know what he had done to ask Pardon for, he reply'd that we did not shew due Respect to his Officers that we went to the Rounda with Swords, Guns and Lances and frighten'd all his People, we desir'd he might hear our Story but in vain for he still kept his Passion, we argued with him some time and told him the Company would be very angry to hear of our being daily insulted in Syrian and he not give us Redress; He said he did not mind what the Company could do to him neither did he care for them at all & threaten'd us much, this put us in a heat notwithstanding his Threats that we talk'd so sharp to him for his Partiality that our Linguisters were afraid to interpret what he said (for he had before threaten'd the Linguister to take his Head off if he said any thing he did not like) so ended our Dispute, He went out a little to see the Workmen and came in to us a little more compos'd; We began with him again and represented to him the ill Consequence of punishing People in a barbarous Manner without a Tryal & beg'd that he would not condemn us till he heard our Story, and that if he did not do us Justice we must apply to the King in Person, this with a little Flattery for they are a vain People brought him to a tolerable good Humour he said he was at present very busy with the Palace but he would make Enquiry into the Affair when he had more Time and that he would take care there should be no such doings again; We beg'd of him not to forget, he said we had no Occasion to speak to the King, we promis'd we would not. The next morning we went to the Palace again and sent to acquaint the King of our being in waiting to see him; He sent to enquire what Presents we had brought him & what was our Business, we sent him word we was only come to compliment his Majesty on his erecting his Palace, and sent our Presents in, his Secretary came out to introduce us and made us Promise not to talk about any Business, we was then admitted and complimented his Majesty in the most pathetick Terms we could, He thankt us and seem'd to be sorry for M^r^ Westgarths Misfortune of haveing his House burnt; and made him a Present of an Elephant to help make up for his Loss but never mention'd a Word of the Letter that was wrote him so that we took our Leave, When we came to our Boat a Letter arriv'd from Cap^t^ Grierson giving an Account of the Ill Treatment, Peter Bertand was likely to receive from the Armenians in Nicous's Banksall, Of this Mr. Westgarth will acquaint you in full.

The 26^th^ Ult^o^ Edward Pickersgill deserted and I believe is gone to Pondicherry, I don't know any Reason for it any more than that I suspended him the latter End of December for his Misbehaviour and appointed Hugh Lamb, Corporal in his Room.

I am

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient and

Syrian most humble Servant

12^th^ February 1753. THOMAS TAYLOR

The President acquaints the Board that Captain Dugald McEacharn lately arriv'd from the Eastward informs him that the King of Tavoy (at whose Port he touch'd to trade) had voluntarily offer'd to enter into an Alliance with the Company and permit an English Factory and the Colours to be hoisted there on certain Conditions which are now produc'd & read as is also a Letter from the King of Tavay, Translates whereof follow viz^t^

Translate of the King of Tavay's Letter to the Presidency of Madrass or Bengal.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

By the Ship Dragon Captain Dugald Mc. Eacharn I sent three Persons with a Letter to the Governour of Calcutta and by the same Captain I have receiv'd his Answer with Tokens of Friendship which affords me great Pleasure from the Desire I have to enter into a firm Alliance with the Honble Company which the said Captain assures me the Governour of Bengal, Madrass or any of the Company's Head Settlements would be glad to concur in and commence a Correspondence with my Country by sending their Ships to trade hither; and as I also equally wish the same I have contracted with the said Captain to allow the Honble Company a Place here for a Factory with their Colours to which their Ships may come and Trade on the conditions specified in the said Contract pass'd by me which I have caus'd to be done in Portugueze as the most current Language in India that the Conditions may be the better understood and have order'd the same to be register'd in my Books in Barma to remain upon Record for the future, the day on which I order'd this Contract to be publish'd; I also permitted the said Captain to hoist the Company's Flag at his House as a Place of the Company's which was done with much Pleasure to me and Content to my People with the Sound of Several Instruments and the Discharge of the Cannon from Capt. Mc. Eacharn I furnishing the Powder necessary on the Occasion. And as the said Captain represented to me that probably the Number of Cannon could not be had agreeably to the Bores stipulated in the said Contract he desir'd to know if I would receive one large for two small ones if equal in weight thereto to which I have agreed and that one large be receiv'd for two or even three small and that I would not on my part be wanting to acquiesce to every thing that should appear reasonable, My Intention being to promote and secure a lasting Friendship and Correspondence with the Honble Company and their Governours, In Testimony of which and of my Love I send you by the said Captn. Dugald Mc. Eacharn, 4 Elephants Teeth ℔z 52 Catties; sorry that I have nothing worthy your Acceptation for which however I hope my Good Will may plead with you for an Excuse.

I also desire the Governour that if Capt. Mc. Eacharn shall apply to him for any thing to be done for me with Expedition that he will do me the Kindness to order his People to finish the same in time to come by this same Captain to whom I have deliver'd some Goods with the Produce whereof he may reimburse himself the Amount Cost of my Indent. But if the Captain's Occasions call him to any other Place and the Amount of what he has of mine is not sufficient to pay for what I want, I request the Governour to make it good and I will it to his Order on his advising me of it. I also acquaint him that I am very desirous of a Diamond Ring of the value of 100 or 150 Pagodas, the Cost whereof I hereby oblige myself to pay and if he can send me an able Goldsmith so much the better.

Witness Tavay 31 January 1753.

PHELIPE DA SILVA

JOAÕ DE FARIA

TRANSLATE OF THE KING OF TAVAY'S PROPOSAL.

I the King of this Kingdom of Tavay do out of my absolute Power grant to Captain Dugald Mc. Eacharn Permission to establish an English Factory or Colony here on the following Conditions.

That the Company oblige themselves to furnish me with a hundred Pieces of Cannon of the Length of three Covids and a Span, four of five Covids and a Span, one hundred Muskets one thousand Catties of Powder, One thousand Catties of Shott for the Cannon and fifty Men to manage the same for my Defence in the Company's Pay during their Settlement here.

If at any time War should make it necessary for the Preservation of my Country, the Company shall send me the required Succours at their own Charge 'till the same arrives here.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*———

The Company shall oblige themselves to send me a Present yearly as long as they Continue a Settlement here.

To all which If the Company agree, they shall enjoy the Priviledges hereunder.

The Company shall be permitted to purchase all the Tinn in my Country without any Let or Hindrance whatsoever and particular Ships to have only what may not be wanted for the Company.

They shall have Liberty to purchase as much Grain as their Ships may require.

They may build Ships Brigantines, Sloops &c^{a} and cut the Timbers which may be necessary for so doing and if they want to lade any on their Ships they may have what they want.

All their Ships coming to this Port shall be free from all the Usual Customs and Presents. These being the Conditions, if they are agreeable to both Parties this Contract shall be of Force otherwise to be Null. Done in Tavay the 2^{d} October 1752 In the presence of the Witnesses hereunder sign'd.

Witnesses.

PHELIP da SILVA
JOÃO FARIA LEITÃO
W^{M} PALAVIET
LUIS COLLACO
JEAN

The Contents of the foregoing being consider'd the Board are of Opinion that it may be of Advantage to cultivate a Friendship with the Princes on the Eastern Coast and therefore Resolved that it will be proper to address the King of Tavay by the first Vessel bound there and acquaint him that the Company are well pleas'd with his Offer of Friendship and Alliance and are very willing to accept it but that having been for some time involv'd in Troubles here in support of the Country Government against the Ambitious Attempts of the French to raise themselves on the Ruins of the Rightful Prince, it is at present out of our Power to comply with the Terms he proposes of our furnishing him with such a Quantity of Cannon and Ammunition that however we desire he will permit his Britannick Majesty's Colours to be hoisted at his Port and as soon as the Troubles here are subsided we shall then readily enter into a Treaty with him.

Letter from M^{r} Thomas Combes read as follows

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &C^{A} COUNCIL OF
FORT S^{T} GEORGE.

Honble Sir & Sirs

In Obedience to the Commands of the Honble Court of Directors, I came to this Place in order to proceed on some Secret Expedition more immediately under the Direction of your private Committee; But as my State of Health in general is very bad and as I am but lately recover'd from a very severe Fit of Illness I find myself quite incapable of an Undertaking of this Nature in which I should only prove an useless Expence to my Honble Masters.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

I therefore request your Honour &c^{a} Council's Permission to return to my Station at Fort Marlborough where I flatter myself, notwithstanding my ill State of Health, I can still be of some Service. I am with the greatest Respect.

Hoñble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient & most Humble Servant

Fort S^{t} George
4th March 1753.

THO^{S} COMBES.

Agreed that M^{r} Combes's Request be comply'd with & the President acquainting the Board that M^{r} Hunter had desir'd to have M^{r} Henry Brooke for his Assistant. Resolv'd that he be appointed accordingly & proceed with M^{r} Hunter in the Expedition to the Negrais.

As our great Demand for Gunpowder Shott &c^{a} may render it extremely inconvenient for us to furnish M^{r} Hunter from time to time with what he may have Occasion for, tis Agreed to write to the Gentlemen at Bengal and desire they will send a Sloop with Rice and as much Gunpowder and six Pound Shot as they can spare to him at the Negrais, and also supply him as far as they are able with whatever he may at any time indent for.

THO^{S} SAUNDERS
CHA^{S} BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R} WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 12th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R} GOV^{R} PRESID^{T}.
CHARLES BODDAM — HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH — JOHN SMITH

The Military Correspondence is now laid before the Board.

Major Lawrence writes to the President as follows.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.

Sir

Camp at Trivedy March 2^{d} 1753.

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 22^{d} of February.

In regard to the Military I have ordered the People who acted for Captain Clive to diet them for the Company 'till I know your Determination which I had Reason to expect before the End of last Month.

I can only reply to the other parts of your Letter by assuring you that if I could have met with any proper Occasion for attacking the Enemy I had certainly done it, that I have left no means untry'd to bring them to a general Action and that I will do every thing that lies in my power to forward the Service. But if you and the Council see further into this matter than I do which may very probably be the Case, Please to send me your positive Orders and I will strictly obey them. You Sir are the best judge whether I ought to be forward in giving my Opinion after what has happen'd unless I want it to be contradicted and since you are pleas'd to mention my concurring I would beg Leave to ask whether I ever objected to any thing you propos'd for the Good of the Publick, or what regard (amongst other Matters) was paid to my Method for victualling the Soldiers offer'd to You and the Council in a general Letter from M^{r} Starke and myself when I was at Fort S^{t} David.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

Mr. Starke has sent us a thousand Pagodas by Peons which will save much trouble. We have a great many Men sick. I have no other News worth Notice.

I am Sir
Your most humble and most
Obedient Servant
S. LAWRENCE

P.S. Our Force in Camp at present won't bear to be weaken'd, besides you are not certain of the King of Tanjour's joining. His Delays would make bad worse.

Captain Dalton at Trichinopoly writes that although the Daloway has sent away all his Guns and Baggage there is yet no other Appearance of his moving himself, he gives out that his Brother has made up Matters with Balazarow for sixty one Lack of Rupees and has agreed to take seven thousand of his Horse into the Mysore Service and that he has Leave to stay and blockade Trichinopoly since which his Horse have again began to patrole & stop Provisions going into the Fort. He also reports that Balazarow's Mother is dead on which he is resolv'd to return back to his Country without visiting Ramiseram Pagoda as he intended. That the Killedar having lately without apprizing him (Dalton) of his Design, sent a Party of twenty five Seapoys and as many Peons to keep Possession of an old Village about five Miles from the Fort, the Enemy surrounded and took most of them Prisoners although he made a Feint by passing the River towards Syringam to draw them off but this had no other Effect than enticing a large Party of the Enemy within reach of our Artillery by which they suffer'd very considerably as they did likewise in an Attempt they made on Wayconda, several Horse & many of their Foot remaining dead on the Spot amongst whom was the Head Jemidar of the Morattas. That he has lately discover'd a Correspondence between the Daloway and one of his Jemidars who in Consideration of a large Sum of Money was to deliver up the Post at Chintomeny Waterside to the Raja. In regard to the Security of Trichinopoly he thinks (barring unforeseen Accidents) he has a Force sufficient to defend it against a much more formidable Enemy than the Daloway.

Lieutenant Bilhock writes that immediately on the Receipt of the President's Orders he left the Nabob who was determin'd to go further into the Country and return'd to Conjeveram where he receiv'd Intelligence of several Parties of the Enemy, plundering in different Parts of the Country but had not been able to come up with them, as they never fail to fly on the first News of his Approach.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

13th The President wrote to Major Lawrence as follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR.

Sir

Mr. Wynch has taken upon him to supply the Army with Provisions and ordered his People to provide the necessary.

I have convers'd with Balaza Row's Vakeel who has brought a Letter from his Master, the Contents to assist Mahomed Ally that he may receive his Chout.

Abdul Bob Cawn writes me Mootaz Ally Cawn was going to Pondicherry.

I am preparing every thing and shall in a few days be ready for what wrote me.

The Daloway has sent me a long Letter, the late Affair at Trichinopoly has made an Alteration in his Stile he does not think fit to send Copies of the Letters he mentions tho' I told him I should detain Vencat Row; If a certain Affair which

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

you are acquainted with turns out as we expect he as well as some others will alter their Measures. As this goes overland I am cautious of writing fully.

I am Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
THO^{s}· SAUNDERS

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 19th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}· GOV^{R}· PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The President lays before the Board two Letters from Mess^{rs}· Starke & Lawrence and one from Major Lawrence which are read as follow.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}·
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR OF FORT S^{T}· GEORGE

Fort S^{t}· David } 6th· March
Trivedy Camp } 1753.

Sir

We think proper to acquaint you with our Sentiments on the present Situation of Affairs as the Reinforcement which you mention the Enemy is likely to receive makes it requisite that some speedy and vigourous Methods be resolv'd on.

Captain Dalton is able to defend Trichenopoly against the Troops before it and we conceive Abdul Bob Cawn has a sufficient Force to keep every thing quiet from Black Enemies in the Neighbourhood of Arcot since the coming of Balazarow is uncertain and may not be this long time if there is any thing to fear from him, we are therefore of Opinion the following Plan for Action in these Parts should be immediately put in Execution.

That (as the Enemy have drain'd all their Garrisons to strengthen their present Encampment and nearly equal us in Europeans) a Detachment of English, Coffreys & Seapoys be form'd from Madrass, Arcot, Changleput &c^{a}· to reinforce the Nabob which may assemble at Conjeveram & from thence proceed to Trinomalie acquainting Major Lawrence with their Motions who will make their joining him secure and easy while we act in like Manner on this side with the Troops at S^{t}· David & Trivedy whereby so large an Army will be collected in the whole that an additional Train of Artillery will we doubt not give us all the Success we could desire in forcing the Enemy's Camp, opening the Country and forwarding the Nabob's Affairs.

We have thoroughly consider'd the Increase of Expence this will produce but think it ought not to be offer'd as an Objection being convinc'd that the Method which soonest finishes the War costs least in the End; The King of Tanjour who now is fearful of declaring himself no longer aw'd would join us & the Daloway be so intimidated that he might at least be brought to Terms and return to his own Country; Let us no longer then defer uniting our Force which will make us superiour to all our Opposers but be content with doing one thing at a Time and let the Army in a regular Manner reduce Places as they fall in it's Way for more Advantages are lost than gain'd by Beginning at the wrong End though Success attends that particular Circumstance.

Major Lawrence wrote you some time ago what Strength he thought sufficient for your Garrison & we fancy the Invalids may very well be included in the hundred Men. As the Principal Business at Changleput is to guard the Prisoners, Seapoys are very fit for that Work and Arcot seems to be in no Danger so we are perswaded you will instantly give the necessary Orders for forming this Detachment as Dispatch is of the utmost Consequence on all Accounts, and as this is the Primum Mobile of all

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

other Undertakings we think any thing foreign to it may be deferr'd. The Reinforcements expected from the other Settlements will still contribute to make our Success here, on which every thing depends more certain. We are

Sir
Your most humble and most
Obedient Servants

RICH^{D}. STARKE
STRINGER LAWRANCE

P.S.

If the Godolphin is not dispatch'd when this comes to hand She'll afford a good Opportunity for sending us a Supply immediately.

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR OF FORT S^{T}. GEORGE.

Fort S^{t}. David } 13th March
Trivedy Camp } 1753

Sir

We are of Opinion that three hundred Europeans or near that Number will do the Business so beg you'll send them away immediately; We wrote for all you could spare that no Time might be lost and because the Stronger we are, the more certain will be our Success which we shall have no Doubt of and are making the necessary Preparations.

Please to acquaint us with the latest Advices you have from the Northward and your Opinion of what ought to be done next in case of Victory. Let us be speedy in our Resolves & vigourous in the Execution of them; whether ought Arcott or Trichenopoly to engross our Thoughts. The Daloway does much Mischief where he is. Mootaz Ally is at Pondicherry.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient Servants

RICHARD STARKE
STRINGER LAWRENCE

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR OF FORT S^{T}. GEORGE

Sir

Inclos'd is the Letter as you desire from the Nabob to the King of Pegu.* I hope you will have receiv'd M^{r}. Starke's and my joint Address of yesterday with our Opinion that three hundred will do the Business. We are getting every thing in readiness. The Enemy come frequently in the Night, give a Fire and run away but as this is attended with no Mischief, I have not thought it worth taking Notice of.

* The President desir'd the Nabob to write to the King of Pegu (& sent him a Draught of a proper Letter) acquainting him that he might safely rely on the Fidelity & Friendship of the English by whom alone he & his Country had been preserv'd from the wicked Attempts of his Enemies.

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

P.S.

As I hurried the Nabob for the King of Pegu's Letter He can't answer yours 'till to morrow.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

The foregoing Letters being read, the President acquaints the Board that finding Mess$^{rs.}$ Starke & Lawrence (in consequence of what wrote the Major) strongly of Opinion that a bold Attempt to force the French Intrenchments might be attended with Success he had collected together from the several Garrisons and draughted from this as many Men as with Captain Polier's Company amounted to about two hundred & sixty which with a Company of Seapoys he propos'd sending to Fort S$^{t.}$ David on the Godolphin and Prince George if it met with the Board's Approbation and desir'd they would weigh the Circumstances of our Situation and deliver their Sentiments, The Board having accordingly deliberated thereon concur in Opinion that the Plan should be carried into Execution without Delay as the Enemy's present Situation not only obliges our Army to lie wholly inactive though superiour in Number of Europeans while their Detach'd Parties of Banditti ravage & lay waste the whole Country but even renders the Communication between our Army and S$^{t.}$ David very precarious & which may be totally cut off if in this Situation they were to receive any considerable Reinforcement and should the Enterprize be attended with Success it may probably convince Moraree & the Mysore Daloway that they are acting a Part very contrary to their true Interest & perhaps determine them to return to their own Country, an Event which would give the Nabob such Superiority of Strength as might enable him to march against the Veloor Phousdar whom the French set up for Nabob of the Province and whose Interest is to be fear'd. It is therefore Resolv'd that the said Reinforcement be sent as soon as possible to Fort S$^{t.}$ David on the Godolphin and Prince George and the Subject of a Letter to Mess$^{rs.}$ Starke and Lawrence is now Agreed on and the Draught Ordered to be drawn and when approv'd enter'd after the Minutes of this Consultation.

THO$^{S.}$ SAUNDERS
CHA$^{S.}$ BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A$^{R.}$ WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

Pursuant to the Resolution in Consultation yesterday the Detachment of Military intended to reinforce the Army being embark'd on board the Godolphin and Prince George the Dispatches to the Commanders are now sign'd also General Letter to Mess$^{rs.}$ Starke and Lawrence, Copy whereof follows. 20th.

To RICHARD STARKE AND
STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ$^{RS.}$

Gentlemen

The President has communicated to us your Letters of the 6$^{th.}$ & 13$^{th.}$ March.

We are glad to find the French Ships which are arriv'd at Pondicherry from Bengal & China have brought a much inferiour Reinforcement than expected.

The Plan you propose of attempting the Enemy's Intrenchment we approve and have accordingly embark'd on Ships Godolphin & Prince George two hundred & sixty Military and a Company of Seapoys; M^{r} Hunter's Expedition was so far advanc'd that it was impossible to drop it, otherwise we could have sent you a few more.

We have not lately receiv'd any Advices from Salabat Jung's Camp, there are some hopes that Sidoo Lascar Cawn's being advanc'd to the Duanship may make a favourable Alteration.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

Balazarow writes to continue our Assistance to the Nabob and promises his Friendship. The powerful Effect of Money over these Generals would make us look upon any Alliances or Promises as very precarious, 'tis said great Offers have been made him; on the other Hand, the Friendship that subsists between the Sou Rajah and our Settlement of Bombay gives us Room to hope. The Attachment to the King of Tanjour is another Circumstance & Moraree having made Interest for the Chout which belongs to Ballazarow who has been advis'd of the large Sums the former has drawn from the Mysore King may create an Enmity between them, it is reported Balazarow intends to go against Mysore & Moraree's Country which might possibly draw them off.

The King of Mysore we find persists in his Hopes of Trichenopoly, we think more is to be apprehended from his Money than his Troops.

You desire Gentlemen to know our Opinion should Success attend, what is next to be done. So sudden and various are the Interests of these Princes that hardly any Plan can be fix'd on but what may be liable to as sudden an Alteration as the Situation is at present the following Particulars occur to us that we endeavour to gain Balazarow to the Nabob's Interest, the King of Tanjour will we imagine find Excuses to remain neuter 'till he sees the Measures this General takes; We conceive his Army coming into the Province will entirely destroy it & therefore think it would be best to endeavour to perswade him to go against Moraree's Country & Mysore and get only as many of his Troops as we deem sufficient to enable us to defeat the Enemy. The Nabob's Country Adversaries are Moraree, the Mysore King and the Veloor Phousdar if the Nabob is successful Moraree may possibly be tir'd of his Alliance, if not he will continue with Murtaz Ally Cawn and the French or go to the Mysore King, it might not be amiss if the Nabob endeavour'd to gain him to his Party. The Mysore King will probably be greatly intimidated and go to his own Country, if not he does not seem to be so capable of doing much Harm Murtaz Ally Cawn is a very powerful Phousdar, a near Relation of Chunda Saibs, is possess'd of a strong Fort in the Neighbourhood of Arcot, has been proclaim'd Nabob by the French, if he once gains Ground will be supported by all the Nawaights who are very numerous in the Province; Our Judgment of the different Interests and Power of these Princes may not be so perfect as we could wish. We therefore desire Mr. Lawrence would learn from the Nabob, his Opinion, the one is endeavouring to get a Part, the other a Competitor with the Nabob for the whole Government; The first powerful in Riches by which means he can form a formidable Alliance, the others Strength greatly in the Voice of the People for not one has yet appear'd for the Nabob. Thus Gentlemen we can only give you our Sentiments of the different Parties; whether the Victory may be compleat, where the Enemy may again Rendezvous, whether it may be more convenient for Cannon, Stores, &c[a] first to go to Trichenopoly and from thence to Veloor or from Veloor to Trichenopoly is what we must leave to M[r]. Lawrence to act as he finds these and several other Circumstances he thinks for the Good of the Service which Distance & Time will not admit us to judge of. Wishing you all imaginable Success.

Fort S[t]. George
20[th]. March 1753.

We are Gentlemen
Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

By the same Conveyance the President also wrote to Major Lawrence to the same Effect as some part of the General Letter with the following additional Paragraphs viz[t].

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MARCH 1753.*——

"I shall be oblig'd to you to speak to the Nabob to write to Abdul Bob Cawn "to cover Conjeveram &c^{a}· Places, he behaves very idly and is now at Arcot "inactive."

"I have receiv'd the Nabob's Letter to the King of Pegu and at the same "time one said to come from Balazarow, I could not but remark that the Cover of "the Nabob's Letter and the other were certainly cut off the same Piece of Silk, "which makes me still doubt the Authentickness of such Letters, Inclos'd is a "Translate of it by which you'll perceive it is to desire he would send the French "Second Subidar to him, in which I don't know whether we should be too much in "a Hurry, Please to advise with the Nabob, I shall wait ' till I hear from You."

At a Consultation *Present*

Monday the 26th.

Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}· Gov^{r}· President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

The Military Correspondence read.

Major Lawrence advises that Captain Pepper died the 15th· Instant of the Small Pox, that several of the Men have been carried off by the same Distemper and the Season is very sickly.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly writes that the Rajah with almost his whole Force had attack'd an Advanc'd Battery which aw'd them and prevented their Horse from patroling near the Fort but notwithstanding their great Superiority they were repuls'd by Subidar Shaik Ibrahim, who commanded the Post and behav'd with great Bravery and Resolution, in this Action the Enemy lost forty Men kill'd on the Spot and one hunderd wounded of whom twenty five died shortly after. That 'tis reported Balazarow's Forces are plundering in the Mysore Country, on which Account it is said the Daloway intends to return thither with Moraree. That the Rajah has sent another Vakeel to Tanjour who sollicits the King strongly to send neither Men nor Provisions to the Nabob but that tis said he meets an indifferent Reception.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot advises that two of the Nabob's Head Officers having differ'd on account of the Pay due to their several Commands, one of them having apply'd a Sum of Money intended for them both to the use of his own People only, a Quarrel ensued & lasted for two days in which several were kill'd and Wounded; That the Enemy at Vellour hearing of the Disturbance march'd out but return'd on the News of it's being accommodated.

The President writes to Lieutenant Innis at Changleput and Lieutenant Symmonds (who commands the Party for the Protection of these Parts in the Room of Lieut^{t}· Bilhoch) that he is inform'd several Straggling Parties of the Enemy are plundering on the Covelon Road, directing him to keep Hircars constantly abroad for Intelligence and detach what Seapoys they can spare and endeavour to come up with them.

Letters from the President to Balazarow & Sydoo Lascar Cawn (Salabat Jung's Duan) as enter'd in the Country Correspondence dated 23^{d}· Instant are now read and approv'd.

Agreed that the Colchester attend M^{r}· Hunter in the Expedition to the Negrais as also the Arcot Snow, Porto Bello & Fortune Sloops and that Forty thousand Rupees be laden on the Colchester to be employed as M^{r}· Hunter shall see Occasion.

Tho^{s}· Saunders
Cha^{s}· Boddam
Henry Powney
A^{r}· Wynch
John Smith

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*———

Monday the 2d.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R. Gov^R. PRESID^T.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

General Letter from Mess^rs. Starke & Lawrence read as follows.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &c^A. COUNCIL OF
FORT S^T. GEORGE

Hoñble Sir & Sirs Fort S^t. David 30^th March 1753.

We have been favour'd with your General Letter of the 20^th. Instant and the Troops you have sent us are now encamp'd at Trepopilore. The Nabob with his Army mov'd today to Trivendupuram and as all the Stores and other Necessaries are in the greatest Forwardness. Major Lawrence proposes to return to Trivedy on Sunday next and after settling a Magazine there which may take up a day or two He will endeavour to put our Scheme in Execution. We have not the least doubt of success for your timely Recruit (which merits our Thanks makes us sufficiently strong for such an Enterprize.

We observe that Mr. Saunders has communicated our Letters of the 6^th. & 13^th. in Council though they were address'd to him only as they regarded nothing but Country Business. This is not mention'd out of any Mistrust that the Gentlemen won't keep the Affair secret for we have the greatest Confidence in them but because we thought our Hoñble Masters had some Reasons for ordering that Things of this Nature should be transacted by a Majority of three and we were willing to shew our Obedience. However we will always communicate what occurs to you when Opportunity offers as a perfect Harmony and your Approbation is what we shall be always desirous of.

In a Conference with the Nabob M^r. Lawrence finds that the declaring Mootaz Ally Cawn will hurt M^r. Dupliex's Interest with the Nawaights rather than forward it as they are disgusted at Young Chunda's being set aside. This may be of Service among the Rest of the Things you mention but as it is impossible to form any Certain Judgment on the State of Affairs in general 'till after a Battle we must beg Leave to defer giving our Opinion 'till that Time and in hopes of speedily wishing you Joy of a Victory. We are

Hoñble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient Servants

RICH^D. STARKE
STRINGER LAWRENCE

The other Letters relating to Military Transactions receiv'd since last Consultation are also read.

Mess^rs. Starke & Lawrence write that M^r. Hunter having acquainted M^r. Lawrence it is intended to order the Coffreys back hither they had re-embark'd them to the Number of forty seven and a Corporal on the Godolphin as they can be but of little Service there and may do very well on M^r. Hunter's Expedition.

Captain Dalton writes that since the Raja's Repulse in his late Attack of the Advanc'd Battery his People have not ventur'd to approach any of our Outposts but apply with double Diligence to the Stopping all Provisions that they lately seiz'd thirty Bullocks loaded with Rice and as many People who will probably share the Fate of seven others whom the Dalloway sent back a few days ago without their

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

Noses. That it is reported there has been an Action near Syringapatam between the Morattas & Mysoreans in which the latter lost twelve hundred Men & were oblig'd to take Shelter under the Cannon of their Fort since which they have sent to offer Terms of Accommodation to Balazarow.

Captain Sanderson advises that a Party of the Morattas appear'd lately at Timmery and burn and plunder the Country wherever they go.

Lieutenant Innis advises to the same Effect, that though he has always detach'd Parties in pursuit of the Enemy whenever he has had Intelligence of them yet it has been impossible to come up with them being Horse, that the Main Body are near Caurendypollam which Village they have attempted to burn and he is apprehensive the Nabob's People will desert that Fort unless timely supported.

Lieutenant Symmonds writes that having Intelligence of three hundred Morattas being at Parapa about five Coass from Poonamalee he march'd in pursuit of them but to no Purpose not being able to come up with them, that his Hircars say they are gone to Anawa Trivalore where there are seven hundred of the Enemy.

The most material of what the President wrote Major Lawrence is as follows.

"It is reported that Mons. Bussy with a hundred of the French Troops is "arriv'd at Metchlepatam, that the rest Remain with Salabat Jung."

"Balazarow's Vakeel was with me this Morning, I ask'd him concerning the "French Head Subidar who is with his Master, he says his Government is taken "from him that he is in Disgrace and no Confidence put in him, this does not well "agree with the Letter requesting his Brother might be sent.

"A Report from Pondicherry says that * Mauphez Cawn is imprison'd at "Golcondah and that Nabob Mahomed Ally is ordered to depart the Province, tis "said here Mauphez Cawn is appointed Nabob of Rajahmundrum."

* The Nabob's Brother.

"The Nabob's Letters to me are generally trifling, as you have an Opportunity "by frequently conversing with him of Salabat Jung, Balazarow, and other Affairs "of Government you might perceive if there was any Inconsistence in his Discourse.

"I don't think there can be any great or certain Dependence on Balazarow, "the cursed & powerful Effect of Money is a great Difficulty to struggle with.

A Letter is also read from the Mysore Daloway on the old Subject of his Dispute with the Nabob insisting on the Guarantee of the English and their Breach of Faith and enclosing Copies (as he alledges) of two Letters wrote one by Captain Cope and the other by Captain DeGingins both promising that the Nabobs Agreement with the Rajah should be fulfill'd which Letters with the President's Answer now read and approv'd are enter'd in the Country Correspondence.

The abovemention'd Letter said to be wrote to the Mysore Dalloway by Captain DeGingins having been shewn him he positively declares he never did write him to that or the like Effect.

The several Articles and Vessels intended for the Expedition to the Negrais (viz^{t}· Colchester, Arcot Snow, Porto Bello & Fortune Sloops) being in readiness, tis Agreed that Lieut^{t}· Bilhock with a Detachment of thirty four Europeans and seventy two Coffreys be embark'd on the Colchester for the said Service that M^{r}· Charles Knapton one of the Assistants to the late M^{r}· Robins do also attend M^{r}· Hunter as an Assistant in planning & carrying on what Works may be thought necessary, and a Commission is ordered to be drawn out for him to act as a Lieutenant of Artillery during the Expedition and also an Ensigns Commission to John North late Gunner of the Bombay Castle who likewise proceeds on the Colchester.

Draughts of the following Letters are now read viz^{t}·

From the President to the King of Pegu } Both enter'd in the
From D^{o}· ... to the King of Tavay } Country Correspondence

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

General Letter to David Hunter Esq^{r}.
Letter from the President to Ditto
General Letter to M^{r}. Robert Westgarth
General Letter to M^{r}. Thomas Taylor

Which being approv'd are ordered to be enter'd after the Minutes of this Consultation.

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

To DAVID HUNTER ESQ^{R}.

Sir

Our Honble Masters having directed us to make a Settlement at the Negrais and at the same time acquainting us of their Appointment of you to the Government of it, We as soon as Circumstances would permit sent M^{r}. Thomas Taylor with Sloops Porto Bello and Fortune on this Expedition, By Letters from him we learn he landed at the Negrais and hoisted his Britannick Majesty's Colours, that in two or three Days five or six hundred of the Peguers came there demanding the Reason of his coming, that he began to fling up Works but the Season being unhealthy and his Men falling down very fast which rendering him incapable if attack'd of making a Defence he proceeded to Pegu and had an Audience of the King who endeavour'd to disswade him from his Design, offer'd him a Settlement on the Main and at the same time told him We should have the preference to all other Europeans. Advices since mention that the King still continues to amuse him, that the French are making their greatest Efforts to disswade him from it and that the King's Behaviour lately had in it an air of unusual Coolness. In this Situation we think delays are dangerous & can only serve to give time to our Competitors to render the Scheme abortive.

We therefore think it would be necessary that you proceed there immediately with the Ship Colchester, Porto Bello Cuddalore & Fortune Sloops and Arcot Snow; On these Vessels we have laden the Stores requisite with a Detachment of Men according to Returns deliver'd which are entirely under your Direction. As Captain Grierson of the Porto Bello has been there, He may be useful to you as a Pilot. On your Arrival you will take Possession of the Island in his Britannick Majesty's Name for the Company We suppose you will fortify as soon as possible, the more you conduct this Affair with the Appearance of Friendship, the better. You may write the King of your Arrival, that the Risque of Pegu River renders it hazardous for Ships of large Burthen, that you desire his Permission to settle at the Negrais as a Place of more Safety and that you are ready in behalf of the Company to enter into an Alliance with him, the accompanying Letters, one from the Nabob, the other from us to the King will inform him that we have sent you for that Purpose. As a Basis for this Treaty the Island of Negrais may be demanded, a Factory and Fortification at Syrian, a free Liberty of Trade in the Kings Dominions to be settled on Terms to be agreed on by both Parties, Protection for his Britannick Majesty's Subjects that they are not liable to the Rounda but upon Complaint to the Resident at Syrian or the Resident at the Negrais they shall receive a Punishment suitable to their Crimes and in the same Manner the King upon Complaint made of his Subjects shall order Justice to be done us. That We in behalf of the Company do enter into an Alliance with the King to assist him with our Troops against his Enemies Foreign & Domestick by Sea or Land That the same Liberty of Trade be granted him in our Ports as he allows us at his, and that this Treaty be sign'd by the King & his Seal with that of his Officers affix'd to it. That you may be the better able to carry this Scheme into Execution, we have directed M^{r}. Robert Westgarth Resident at Syrian to obey such Orders as he shall receive from you; M^{r}. Thomas Taylor you

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

will employ as you find him useful to You or let him return to the Coast. To guard against Accidents we have wrote to the Gentlemen at Bengal to send a Sloop to you with Supplies of Stores & Provisions. We have been inform'd that Coja Nicous an Armenian, an Officer of the King of Pegu has tyed up an Officer of one of our Ships and whipt him, this is so gross an Affront that we think you should remonstrate it to the King of Pegu and demand a suitable Satisfaction. You will please to advise as soon as possible of your Progress and the Time you may think of returning the Colchester to us that we may provide for her. As such a Distance will not admit us to judge of many things that may happen in the Course of this Expedition we must leave it to your Discretion to act as you judge for the Interest of our Honble Masters.

Mr. Thomas Combes being in an ill State of Health which render'd him incapable of affording you any Assistance We permitted him to return to his Station at Fort Marlborough and appointed Mr. Henry Brooke to accompany You in his Room.

We have ordered Captain Roger Mainwaring & the several other Commanders to repair on board their respective Vessels and follow such Directions as you may think proper to give them.

The King of Tavay having by Captain Mc. Eacharn enter'd into an Alliance with the English and excluded all other Nations from the Trade of his Port. We deliver you a Letter to him as he may possibly be of Service to you. As we don't know when a Vessel may from hence return to that Place. We inclose you Copy of his Agreement, if Opportunity offers you will endeavour to cultivate this good Understanding with him if not detrimental to your other Affairs. We are inform'd he has paid Homage to the King of Pegu.

Inclos'd are Invoice and Bill of Lading for the several Articles we have laden on board the Colchester & the other Vessels under your Direction. Wishing you all imaginable success. We are Sir Your most obedient Servants, Thomas Saunders, Charles Boddam, Henry Powney, Alexander Wynch, John Smith.

To David Hunter Esqr.

Sir Fort St. George 4th. April 1753.

Having in our General Address communicated to you what occurr'd to us. I shall only add a few Hints which you may make use of as you find necessary.

Our Colours being hoisted at Tavay; as that King is a Burmer, it may probably give some Disgust to the King of Pegu; If it should be so you may endeavour to remove it by acquainting him 'tis not done with any Design to assist him against his Majesty whom we hear he had acknowledg'd a Sovereign but at the Desire of the King of Tavay who was apprehensive the Dutch would settle there by Force.

I am inform'd that the Natives especially Artificers would gladly live under our Protection at the Negrais which with Encouragement will be of infinite Service to you.

The pressing of Tradesmen on this Expedition is really a very despotick Act and which nothing but absolute Necessity can in the least excuse, I must therefore request you will please to see these People are well treated and if you can supply yourself there you will return as many as you can by the Vessels that come to the Coast.

If you succeed in this affair I imagine there will not be a Necessity of a Fortification at Syrian as all Trade and Business can I am inform'd be much better carried on from the Negrais.

The Customs of these People are widely different from ours, in case you should wait on the King which I should think would be better avoided, it won't be amiss to settle the Formalities before hand.

——FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.——

Coja Nicous, an Armenian by Nation and one of the Ministers of the King of Pegu has very unjustly whipp'd an English Officer and is represented as endeavouring to prejudice us with the King; It's possible you may have an Opportunity to take a proper Satisfaction for this Affront.

M^r. Brooke being appointed to attend you, as this must put him to an Extraordinary Expence I think he might be allow'd fifteen or twenty Pagodas a month extraordinary however this I leave to You.

Whatever Advices you may send, please to let them be under Direction to the Private Committee.

If you could procure Loadings for the Vessels returning here of Rice and Plank, it might lessen the Expence of the Expedition.

I shall impatiently wait to hear of your Success, wishing you all imaginable Happiness. I am

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

To M^R. ROBERT WESTGARTH
RESIDENT AT PEGU.

Sir

We have receiv'd your several Letters by the Ship Yorkshire Grey, Snow Neptune and Sloops Fortune and Porto Bello.

David Hunter Esq^r. being appointed on an Expedition to the Negrais now proceeds there accordingly with the Honble Company's Ship Colchester & sundry other Vessels under his Direction. As it will be most regular we think it proper to put you under his Orders and you must therefore duly observe all such as you may receive from him; You must likewise transmit him your Accounts regularly and apply to him for whatever you may have Occassion for. We have communicated to him what Advices we have receiv'd from you in regard to your Negotiations with the King of Pegu concerning the Negrais, what you have since done therein you will not fail to acquaint him with.

We are

Sir

Fort S^t. George
4^th. April 1753.

Your affectionate Friends

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

To M^R. THOMAS TAYLOR

Sir

Your several Letters by the Ship Yorkshire Grey, Neptune Snow and Sloops Fortune & Porto Bello are all safely come to hand.

David Hunter Esq^r. being appointed to make a Settlement on the Negrais now proceeds there accordingly with the Honble Companys Ship Colchester and sundry other Vessels; as He may probably require your Assistance we think it necessary to

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

put you under his Orders which you will therefore pay a due Obedience to and communicate to him what Progress you have made in your Negotiations with the King of Pegu in regard to that Island. We are

Sir

Fort S$^{t.}$ George
4$^{th.}$ April 1753.

Your affectionate Friends
THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

M$^{r.}$ Henry Brooke having been thought a proper Person to supply the Place of M$^{r.}$ Combes, it is thought proper to appoint him in case of the Death of M$^{r.}$ Hunter to conduct the Expedition 'till He receive further Orders and a Letter to him and an additional one to M$^{r.}$ Hunter as follow are now sign'd viz$^{t.}$ 4th

To DAVID HUNTER ESQ$^{R.}$

Sir

In the accompanying Letter you are acquainted that we have appointed M$^{r.}$ Henry Brooke to accompany you in your present Undertaking and as we would willingly provide as far as we can for it's Success we have directed him in case of your Decease to take upon him the Charge and Management of the Expedition and proceed therein on the Plan you shall have settled untill he receive our further Orders.

As the Charges attending this Expedition will be very considerable, every means that may tend to lessen them claim our Attention, we therefore think it would be adviseable that such of the Vessels under your Direction as you may have occasion to return hither be loaded with Rice and Plank if procurable. We are

Sir

Fort S$^{t.}$ George
4$^{th.}$ April 1753.

Your most Obedient Servants
THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

To M$^{R.}$ HENRY BROOKE

Sir

Relying on your Prudence & Diligence we have appointed you to accompany David Hunter Esq$^{r.}$ to the Negrais, whose Directions you will observe in every thing relative to his present Expedition and in case of his Decease we hereby direct that you take upon you the Charge & Management of that Undertaking and proceed therein on the Plan he shall have settled untill your receive our further Orders. We are

Sir

Fort S$^{t.}$ George
4$^{th.}$ April 1753.

Your affectionate Friends
THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

The Dispatches to Captain Mainwaring of the Colchester

Grierson of the Porto Bello
Hammond of the Fortune } Sloops
Bond of the Arcot Snow

directing them to follow such Orders as they may receive from David Hunter Esq^{r}. are now also sign'd.

Monday the 9th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^{R}. Gov^{R}. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

General Letter from M^{r}. Robert Westgarth at Syrian read as follows viz^{t}.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^{R}.
PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOUR &C. COUNCIL
AT FORT S^{T}. GEORGE.

Hon'ble Sir & Sirs

Enclos'd I send you my account for last Month by which you will perceive the Ballance in my Hands so must desire you will grant me a Supply by the next Conveyance agreeable to what your Honours Intentions may be and as there is a Loss in weighing out this Money in small Sums I hope you will be pleas'd to make me the accustomary Allowance which is 5 ℔ cent for Loss of Weight and one ℔ Cent for blowing down the Silver.

The King and Upper Rajah has desir'd me to write your Honours to assist their People in getting what Necessaries they may want and that you will supply them with what small Arms you possibly can spare and some Sulphur and in regard to Customs they say if you will not take Customs for what belongs to the King they will do the same here by the Company which I hope sometime may turn to Advantage of their giving us the same Liberty in their Port that they have in ours. They propose sending a Ship a Year but I can't assure you of the Certainty of it.

The French here have labour'd hard to get the Ship to Pondicherry and have been at some Expence about it but to their great Mortification are disappointed, the King said it never was customary to send Kings Ships there and he would not do it.

There's a Ship of the King of Maldivia's sail'd from this place loaden with Rice which the Noquedah of is afraid he will lose his Passage for the Maldivias and the French have advis'd him to go directly to Pondicherry with his Rice, I sent for the Noquedah and told him the bad Consequences of risqueing the King's Ship to a Place that was besieg'd and possibly they would all be taken and made Slaves, he told me he would not go there and if I would give him a Letter to the Governour of Fort S^{t}. David to buy his Rice he would go there, which I have done and hope will deprive the French of that supply.

The Kings People have requested a Pass from me. I have given them a Certificate 'till they arrive at your Port; I have nothing material to add but remain with great Respect.

Syrian
March 10th. 1753.

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most obedient humble servant
ROB^{T}. WESTGARTH

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

Considering our present Views upon the Negrais no Opportunity should be lost of cultivating a good Harmony and Friendship with the King of Pegu, as the most effectual means of promoting it and as M^r^. Westgarth in the foregoing Letter intimates that the King is desirous we should remit the Customs on what belongs to him on board his Ship now in the Road in which Case he will do the same by the Company 'tis Agreed that no Customs be demanded on the King's Merchandize and that as a further Mark of our Friendship a Present be sent him by the Return of his Ship of a rich Gilt Palankeen and another to his Brother Opporazah (hitherto mention'd by the Name of Upper Rajah) and that at the same time a Letter be wrote repeating our Offer of an Alliance with him.

The President lays before the Board the Military Correspondence which is read.

Major Lawrence's Letters are as follow.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r^.

Sir Camp at Trivedy April 1^st^. 1753.

As the Activity of the Army may give frequent Occasions of writing I shall begin afresh to Number my Letters.

We left Trivendupuram early this morning with a large Train of Baggage which it seems the Enemy were determin'd to take Advantage of as well as our being fatigued with a troublesome March for we could perceive their whole Body Horse & Foot drawn out in a Line with the Road at about eight hundred Yards from it and very near Trivedy they begun their Cannonading in their usual Manner a vast deal of it to little Purpose, as we paid a very small Regard to this work they were encourag'd to advance but on our meeting them though we had a deep hollow Way to cross they run away in Confusion and left us Masters of the Field and their Killed and Wounded, The Morattas sav'd the Cannon but I believe this cowardly Behaviour of their Friends must open their Eyes; if not we shall endeavour to do it in two or three days. The Action lasted about an Hour. I'll address you again tomorrow with further particulars and am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r^.

Sir Camp at Trivedy April 2^d^. 1753.

I wrote you last Night of our Success in the Road to this Place and I am perswaded the Panick the Enemy seem'd to be in will render what remains an easy Work. The Soldiers were greatly fatigued and divided amongst a large Train of Baggage or we must have made many Prisoners. As it is, about thirty Europeans dead, and four dangerously wounded were left in the Field, the rest got off under Cover of the Morattas who behav'd infinitely better than their Employers and push'd at us very boldly, inclos'd is a Return of our Loss which was inconsiderable, The Shot flew over our Heads and made sad Work amongst the Cooleys, However we

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

manag'd very well and by Thursday at furthest I shall move to the River Side. This is very disagreeable Weather, two of our Men dropp'd down dead with excessive Heat.

The Surgeon you sent to S$^{t.}$ David refus'd to come to Camp unless I would let him supercede M$^{r.}$ Boswall which I had no orders to do, besides the latter has behav'd with great Diligence and it would be a Pity to put any one over him, I suppose the Gentleman will return to Fort S$^{t.}$ George.

All the Officers present their Respects to You and with Thanks for your Good Wishes. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly writes that the Daloway having intercepted twenty five Bullock Load of Rice going into the Fort and taken fourteen of the People that were bringing it sent them in the next Day with their Noses entirely cut off which Barbarity has so intimidated the Country People that very few have since ventur'd to bring in Provisions. That the next Night imagining the Enemy would again return to the Place where they had intercepted the Rice, He (Dalton) march'd as soon as it was dark with forty Europeans, a Field Piece & four hundred Seapoys and posted himself in a dry Tank in the Road Way, the Enemy accordingly soon appear'd & not perceiving him came very near when he discharg'd a general Volley at them which he imagines could not fail of doing great Execution and they immediately rode off. In a subsequent Letter Captain Dalton writes that the Enemy patrole Day and Night in such vast Numbers that no Hircar will venture out, That the Reason of their being so closely watch'd is the Nabob's Brother having very unadvisedly sent out a large Detachment of Topasses, Seapoys and all his Horse to fetch in some Bullocks with Rice from Tondaman's Country of which the Enemy had immediate Intelligence and have ever since lain in the Road to intercept them, That He (Dalton) us'd all the Arguments he could to dissuade Kiroudy Cawn from this Step and even peremptorily refus'd to let any of those under his Command go out, but it avail'd nothing, he said he would send his own People and accordingly did so but now heartily repents as it is morally impossible they can get in again while the Enemy remain in their present Situation which so effectually cuts off all Communication with the Country that not the least Provision of any Sort has been brought into the Fort since they took Possession of their Post and the Nabob's Brother has been oblig'd to serve Paddy out of the Magazines for several Days and seems to be under great Apprehensions though He (Dalton) cannot think there is any Reason to be alarm'd if the Magazines are in the Condition that has been represented to him (of which however he can arrive at no Certainty) as the Enemy can do no other Prejudice than by stopping the Provisions. That it is reported the Dalloway has accommodated Matters with Balazarow for thirty five Lacks of Pagodas and spares no Cost for enlisting Seapoys with Europe Arms by which means he has already drawn together a Body of at least two thousand besides four Companies of Topasses.

Lieutenant Innis at Changleput advises that the Nabobs Killedar of Courandypollam having wrote to him that without some Speedy Assistance that Fort must inevitably fall into the Enemy's Hands, he determin'd to assist him and for that purpose collected together what he could of the Nabob's scatter'd Troops whom with eight Europeans, one hundred of our Seapoys and a small Two Pounder he detach'd to the Relief of Caurandypollam. On their Approach the Enemy march'd out to attack them but after two or three Rounds from the Field Piece quitted the Field and retreated to a Village about three Miles off, leaving some of their Wounded, on our Part none were hurt.

The President acquaints the Board that Capt^{n} Hutchinson in Conversation with him on different Subjects had accidentally mention'd his having twenty of the French Prisoners on board the Godolphin and upon further Enquiry inform'd him that he had Leave to go into the Place where they are confin'd at Fort S$^{t.}$ David and engage as

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*———

many that were willing to return to Europe as he thought proper, in consequence of which having lost many Europeans of his Complement he thought this a favourable Opportunity to replace them and had accordingly enter'd the aforemention'd twenty Prisoners on his Ships Books and given them necessary Cloathing as they were almost naked. The President also acquaints the Board that although he has lately receiv'd Private Advices from Mr. Starke, no Mention is made of this Transaction nor have the General Letters from Fort St. David or Major Lawrence's Letters one Word relating to it and as this may possibly be an Affair of no small Consequence, he desires the Sentiments of the Board.

And the several Letters and Depositions from Mr. Dupliex and the French Officers, and the President, Major Lawrence and the English Officers relating to the French Prisoners being carefully perus'd and the Circumstances of the Present Affair consider'd, the Board are unanimously of Opinion that as it was Agreed the said Prisoners should be kept at Cuddalore and Madras, the sending them to Europe on an English Ship may give Mr. Dupliex some Reason to charge us with Breach of Faith which it would be better to avoid especially as the Advantage gain'd by being disburthen'd of twenty Prisoners only out of the whole Number is very inconsiderable, besides that it would be contradictory to what the President with the Concurrence of the Board wrote Mr. Dupliex in answer to his Letter of the 31st. May 1752, where (after referring to a Deposition inclos'd of three French Officers relative to Mr. Lawrences Declaration about sending the Prisoners to Europe) he says "The threaten-"ing to embark our Troops on your Ships will no doubt appear extraordinary to You, "but it proves fully that they are not Prisoners to Mahomed Ally Cawn, I have been "long looking for this Proof, it is at last found &c." The President in his Letter dated 2d. June replies thus—"When I receive an answer from Mr. Lawrence in "regard to the Officers Depositions I shall address you, the report of sending the "Prisoners to Europe in our Ships seems to be without Grounds, upon very slight "Reflection you would know it is impossible." And again in his Letter of the 22d. August "I have already wrote you that Mr. Lawrence had no Power or Authority to "say he would embark the Prisoners on our Ships, I told you 'twas Chimerical, They "were Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn's Prisoners" So that we cannot without acknowledging ourselves guilty of an illegal Act send them to Europe after this Express Declaration that we have no Power to do so, as indeed we have not, for as it was by Major Lawrence's Mediation that the Agreement was made for their being kept at Cuddalore and Madrass, we ought properly to be consider'd only as Trustees for both Parties, on the one Part not to deliver them up without the Nabob's Consent and on the other that they shall not be ill us'd by the Moors; However as we would if possible avoid giving Major Lawrence (whose Services are so necessary at this Time & who we imagine was privy to this Affair) any fresh Disgust and we have more than once experienc'd that our differing from him in Sentiments has had that unhappy Effect, the President is desir'd to write to Mr. Starke in a Private Address in such Terms as that by his Answer we may learn what were the Motives for this Transaction and why we we were not first consulted, in the mean time it is Agreed the said Prisoners continue on board the Godolphin for our further Consideration.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 16th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR. GOVR PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The President lays before the Board the Military Correspondence.

Major Lawrence's Advices are as follow

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r.

Camp near Comaramungulum
8th April 1753.

Sir

On Thursday the 5th Instant we left Trivedy carrying with us the two four & twenty Pounders and reach'd a Tope not far from thence where we lay that Night to reconnoitre the Ground and repose our Soldiers for the Morattas kept us Company as usual which render'd the March slow & troublesome though we kill'd several of their Men and Horses. The Enemy fir'd many Shott from their Camp but did no Damage. A Deserter nam'd Tabaret came over to us who calls himself an Engineer.

Early on Fryday Morning we took Possession of this Village with little Loss and found a Convenient Place for a Battery within seven hundred Yards of the Enemy's Works, at Night we carried our Guns into it & yesterday threw about a hundred & twenty Shot amongst them and continue doing the same today. This we can observe makes them uneasy but the Strength of their Situation will require another Method to bring them to an Action, be assur'd I'll do my best and flatter myself with Success though not so easily or so soon as I expected for who could imagine that their Camp besides a Thick Parapet has a Ditch nine feet deep & seven wide quite around it with a Glacis & Ravelins to cover every reentering Angle. It must have cost an infinite Sum of Money. They have a great many Pieces of Cannon & two Mortars to defend it & throw shott continually into our Camp but don't do much Mischief.

I was favour'd yesterday with your Letter of the 28th. March N^o. 11 but as one Packet has miscarried and the Roads are block'd up on all sides, I think it unsafe to write particularly either on Country Affairs or other Matters 'till a more convenient Opportunity, I have spoke to the Nabob about Arcot, Trichenopoly &c^a, he promises to rectify these Things you shall hear constantly from me on our Occurrences and fully when I can do it without Risque, the Nabob says there is nothing in the Pondicherry Report but confirms that of ours; Time will explain this.

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
S. Lawrence.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r
President & Governour of Fort S^t. George.

Sir

I wrote you yesterday from the Camp near Comoramungulum.

Finding it extremely difficult to get Provisions, as the Nabob had deceiv'd me in that particular and it being impossible to succeed against the Enemy in any reasonable Time or indeed without risquing the whole I thought proper to alter my measures & return'd here this morning where I intend to leave all our useless Stores & try what a Diversion will do, for since we can't drive them out of a Place as strong as Waldour by any warrantable Scheme our next Endeavour must be to render it useless to them by penetrating into their Country.

The Nabob's People are by no means to be depended on, they have shamefully given up Bongarry near Chellumbrum from whence we drew our Provisions and unless it is retaken we can have no Bazar or Magazine here for which Reason I shall dispatch Captain Kilpatrick tomorrow morning with a proper Party to reduce it. These cursed Horse are formidable in nothing but cutting off our Supplies however we will make our Army as light as we can and give them no Rest.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

I am quite at a Loss what to think of Balazarow, the Nabob says there is nothing to be hop'd or fear'd from him this long while as there is no Sign of his Troops being near us or entering the Province whatever may be talk'd of, that he writes very affectionately to him, that the French, King of Mysore, and Moraree, are the only Enemies which ought to engross his Attention at present and that if we can't defeat these People we must keep what we have got till more favourable Circumstances occur.

These are his Politicks at present which he varies with the Times however we may conclude he has no Friend but the English and I wish he may have no more Enemies than those he mentions; The neutral King of Tanjour saves his Country by his Method of acting which he thinks a sufficient Plea and will never join us in the Present Situation, the whole Affair seems to rest on Moraree's leaving the Province but how to force or engage him to it is beyond my Comprehension, some talk that he is disgusted with his Friends this seems to be only Talk, his Brother Bodginrow was kill'd on the 1st. Instant, that may have dishearten'd those who follow'd him but it is yet attended with no other Consequence.

'Tis a Mystery to me how Dupliex supports this expensive War, the Morattas must have Money and Plunder he contrives to satisfy them, if he is to be tir'd you see he perseveres to the last. The Nabob complains that he is terribly distrest for money and it looks very like it, if Abdul Bob Cawn has as much Reason what is to be done? On the whole we must judge for ourselves I'll act my part to the best of my Judgment both in distressing the Enemy and procuring Advantages, But the General Management rests with you who have hitherto conducted it.

Mr. Starke writes me Word that you are displeas'd at our sending some French Prisoners on board the Godolphin I am extremely concern'd as well as unhappy to find I never can do or propose any thing that meets with your Approbation, in the present Case these Prisoners go to Europe of their own Request, it was an Article of their Capitulation that they should be sent there, and the Nabob in a Letter to me consents to it, Captain Hutchinson carries them without any Expence to our Honble Masters and I thought it a fine Opportunity of ridding ourselves of so troublesome a Burthen in so reasonable a way, I could only add that the Time would not permit for knowing your Sentiments on the Matter, our Intentions were good, We acted for the best and hope no bad Consequences will attend this Step as we could not foresee any. Inclos'd is a Translation of the Nabob's Letter to me on this Subject. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr.

Sir

Trivedy Camp 10th. April 1753.

Kiroudy Cawn has wrote the Nabob from Trichenopoly that the Mysoreans have surrounded the Fort and they can get in no Provisions, that their Magazines as well as Water falls short and they are in a distress'd Condition, that Balazarow has made the Affair up with the Daloway and is gone back again so that he begs for an instant Reinforcement. Daltons Letters will I hope clear this Affair which may not be Quite so bad as represented, however it merits our Attention and I beg you'll favour me with your Opinion and Orders about it.

Captain Kilpatrick set out this Morning for Bongarry with a strong Detachment which I hope will clear the Country from whence we draw our Provisions, Mootaz Ally Cawn's Party is return'd and the Enemy are collecting their Force, I wish our next Motion may bring them out, they shall have as little Rest as possible but their Camp is not to be forc'd with five Times our Numbers, if Moraree is disgusted as the Report prevails we may yet do something, no Pains shall be wanting on our Part.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

I can't help observing that this is the most sickly Season I have known, no less than eighty Men are in the Hospital.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servt.

S. LAWRENCE

Captain Dalton in a Letter of the 3d. Inst confirms his late Advices of the Mysoreans Vigilance in patroling & stopping all Manner of Provisions & that his barbarous Custom of cutting off the Noses of all whom he intercepts has struck such Terror into the Cooleys that none of them will venture to bring any in nor is there any Likelihood of getting the Detachment back which Kiroudy Cawn so imprudently sent into Tondeman's Country. That Rice has again been sold in the Buzar the Nabob's Brother having oblig'd one of the great Merchants who had a large Quantity by him to dispose of it but at the same time he has hinted that there is not so large a Quantity of Provisions in the Fort as he formerly said and as He (Dalton) cannot get at any true Account of what there really is in the Magazines or how many are to be subsisted out of it and the Want of Provisions is the only thing that can distress them, he thinks it would be proper to turn out all but Military Men 'till Affairs alter, especially as the poorer Sort of People already begin to clamour for Want of Rice and promises in case the Garrison should at any time be drove to Distress he will give us timely Notice that we may take the necessary Measures. In a Letter dated the 5th Captain Dalton writes that the Enemy are very busy in raising a Wall about three Miles in Circumference on a Plain between the Fort and Tondemans Country where they intend to move when it is ready for their Reception with their whole Force except a Garrison for the Pagodas which will effectually cut off all Supplies, he adds that in every other Respect he thinks Trichenopoly entirely secure.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot advises that he has receiv'd Intelligence of Mootaz Ally Cawns being at Arnie with one hundred Europeans & Topasses, thirty Coffreys, six hundred Seapoys and nine hundred Horse with four Field Pieces and two Haubitz but cannot learn their Intentions.

The President's Letters to Major Lawrence and Captain Dalton are also produc'd & read and are as follows

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR.

Sir

Fort St. George 14th April 1753.

I shall tomorrow reply fully to your Severals, this you will receive by Tappies.

Captain Dalton writes me that Kirody Cawn had contrary to his Opinion sent Clemente and his Detachment to Tondeman's Country, that the Mysore People had plac'd their People in such a Manner that they could not return that Provisions were stopp'd and that he knew not what were in the Magazines, I think Kiroudy Cawn should not take such Steps, that Captain Dalton should be inform'd of the Quantity of Provisions in the Place and that useless People should be turn'd out, Please to speak to the Nabob as I shall write him to give Orders accordingly, I have desired Captain Dalton upon Emergencies immediately to write to You and you will act as you judge proper to relieve him. It is very current here that the Daloway is endeavouring to bribe; I shall if possible inform myself of the Particulars; We cannot be too circumspect.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

By the Course of your late Expedition I observe that the Enemy though their Entrenchment cannot be forc'd have been by kill'd, wounded & Desertion considerable Sufferers & that the Nabob's Army need be under no Apprehensions from them in the Field, the Morattas must have met with a Considerable Loss, whether this will make them tired of their Allies or incense them more against the Nabob you will be best able to judge and whether by getting between their Entrenchment and Pondicherry and cutting off their Convoys or by other Measures endeavouring to bring them to an Engagement is what I must leave entirely to you.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot and Lieutenant Innis at Changleput are by Sickness unfit for Duty, we have none here to relieve them, I shall be oblig'd to you to send a Captain and Lieutenant. If you think a Lieutenant sufficient for the Command at Devecotah, Captain Pigou may either take the Field or come here.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS.

To CAPTAIN JOHN DALTON

Sir

Fort St. George 14th. April 1753.

I have receiv'd your several Letters to No. 105.

It was certainly very imprudent to permit the Troops you mention to go out, I have now wrote the Nabob to give Orders to Kiroudy Cawn to do nothing in Military Affairs without your Approbation, many months ago I wrote you repeated Letters concerning Provisions, you must insist upon knowing the Quantity, I think all useless People should be turn'd out, I have mention'd this to the Nabob also.

Could not the Men you mention take a Circuit and come in another way.

I have lately heard that the Mysore Daloway is at Work and has offer'd large Bribes, I am in hopes of knowing soon to whom when I shall communicate it to you; You are entrusted with the Command of this Fort and I depend upon your defending it. As affairs are in a troublesome Situation upon all Emergencies write the Major who is nearer at hand and can assist you. I have wrote to him to do it.

Though you can't get Provisions from Tondeman's Country, I suppose you may on the Tanjour Side. I must desire you will be very circumspect. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

The present Situation of Affairs at Trichenopoly being taken into Consideration, it is the unanimous Opinion of the Board that as Captain Dalton does not represent the Fort to be in so distress'd a Condition as Major Lawrence advises Kiroudee Cawn has wrote the Nabob and also promises in case he should be drove to any Streights to send timely Notice, It is proper to wait for further Advices from him, as it is not improbable Kiroudy's Cawn's Fears may have painted his Situation worse than it is.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

Wednesday the 18th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The President lays before the Board the following Letter from Major Lawrence viz^t.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R.

Sir Trivedy Camp 13^th. April 1753

Captain Kilpatrick has just wrote me word that he has taken Possession of Bongary which was evacuated by the Enemy in the Night who got off undiscover'd by the Neglect of the Nabob's Horse, when he returns we shall set about the other Scheme.

I hope you receiv'd my last about Trichenopoly, it certainly merits our Attention and I wait your Directions concerning it. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

Although no fresh Advices have been receiv'd from Captain Dalton since last Consultation yet as Major Lawrence seems to look upon the Circumstances of Affairs at Trichenopoly to be very serious and desires Directions, 'tis Agreed to write to him on that Subject and a General Letter is accordingly now draughted and approv'd Copy whereof follows.

TO STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R.

Sir

Captain Dalton having advis'd the President that Kiroudy Cawn had contrary to his Opinion sent a large Party of the Garrison to Tondeman's Country, that the Enemy had cut off their Communication and intercepted all Provisions though Captain Dalton does not seem to lay any particular Stress upon this yet as we think it an Affair that may be of very ill Consequence and as our Distance renders us incapable of affording him a timely Assistance upon Emergency we desire you will, as Your proximity will make you sooner acquainted with the Situation of his Affairs relieve him in such Manner as you shall judge proper.

Fort S^t. George, We are
18^th. April 1753. Sir

Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

The Godolphin being almost in readiness to sail and the Dispatches intended to be deliver'd the Captain tomorrow, the Consideration of the Question whether it is adviseable or not to suffer the French Prisoners on board that Ship to proceed to Europe is now resum'd and that Part of Major Lawrence's * Letter of the 10^th. Instant, relative thereto being again read, we are of Opinion that the Prisoners requesting to go to Europe does not in the least alter the Nature of the Case, for if we are under any Restriction in this Respect, no Power can be deriv'd from them to

* Entd. in Consultn. the 16 Instant

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

justify a Deviation, besides several of them have since mutiny'd and revok'd their Consent. The Major adds that it was an Article of their Capitulation. By all the Letters and Depositions it plainly appears this Point is much contested; Mess^{rs}· Clive and Ripington indeed depose that the Conditions of Surrendry were "that the men "should be march'd prisoners to Cuddalore there to remain at Mons^{r}· Law's Request "'till they could be sent to Europe on English or French Ships." But M^{r}· Law & several other French Officers in their respective Letters of the 30th· August declare that no mention was ever made of sending them to Europe, and M^{r}· Law's Letter to Major Lawrence (wrote at his, the Major's, Request) dated the 14th June only desires that the Prisoners should be sent to Cuddalore and Madrass. Upon the whole we are of Opinion that as the Advantages of sending so few is very trifling and the Odium that may be cast on us equally great as if the whole Number was sent it had better be avoided; Resolved therefore that the Secretary give Captain Hutchinson an order to deliver them and that a Detachment be sent off to guard them ashore.

THO^{S}· SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}· BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{B}· WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

The President having this day receiv'd the following Letter from Major Lawrence, wrote to him in answer as enter'd immediately after it. 20th.

THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}·

Sir Trivedy Camp 15th· April 1753.

M^{r}· Starke has inclos'd to me the following Paragraph out of one of your Letters to him dated the 11th Instant "in regard to the French Prisoners I have long ago "wrote M^{r}· Dupliex that the sending them to Europe was impossible, this was with "the Concurrence of the Gentlemen in Council as I have not been consulted on this "Occasion I am no ways answerable for any Cosequences that may attend it." Since you are pleas'd to explain yourself thus far and wash your Hands of what we do with a Design to promote the Interest of our Hoñble Masters give me Leave Sir to act on the same Principle and acquaint You that as I am ignorant so likewise I am not answerable for any Steps that have been taken by You either with or without the Concurrence of the Gentlemen in Council; Would it not have been acting a more Friendly Part to inform us of our Errors and seek to amend them than thus to lay Blame at our Doors if we are worthy of it, how easy would it have been for you to land the Prisoners at Fort S^{t}· George if it was improper for them to go to Europe? have we ever been made acquainted with what you wrote M^{r}· Dupliex, your Transactions with the Mysore Vakeel or your General Plan and Designs? I leave it to you to judge whether we have not at least an equal Right with the Gentlemen in Council to know all those Things and none but you will be answerable for taking any Steps without our Knowledge and in my Opinion Concurrence, however as it will be unsafe for me to do any thing in future without positive Orders I expect them in every Particular from you and the Council to whom I once more beg Leave to mention the Danger of Trichenopoly as an Affair of the utmost Consequence.

I acquainted you in my last that Captain Kilpatrick had taken Bonagary since which nothing of Consequence has happen'd except that I just hear that one thousand Mysoreans have join'd the Enemy.

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
S. LAWRENCE

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^r.

Sir Fort S^t. George 20^th. April 1753.

I have receiv'd your several Letters from N^o. 1 to 7.

There being two Surgeons on board the Godolphin and knowing there was only one Mate to attend the Army I with a great deal of Difficulty prevail'd on M^r. Keir to stay promising him he should receive Surgeons Pay and Batta and act as such in the Field; I shall be oblig'd to you if you will make him easy in this Respect, Supposing they took Week & Week.

The Affair of 45 : 43 : 48 (Trichenopoly) is vexatious, it must be insisted on that 49 : 50 : 52 : 53 (the Nabob) give such Orders as may prevent the like in future. I wrote you under Date the 14^th. and since the [*Lacuna in original*] which I hope are arriv'd I must desire you will act herein as Occasions require.

There was no mention to me from M^r. Starke of French Prisoners, though he wrote me by that Conveyance He knew as he was in Consultation when the Letter to [*Lacuna in original*] was read; I heard of them actually in Conversation, some of them mutiny'd & declared they would not go; you say it would have been easy to have landed them here and when you consider the Advantages arising from so few is trifling and that it would give an Opportunity to [*Lacuna in original*] always ready to take hold of every thing to advance on a Point greatly contested I am perswaded you will think that it is better to avoid it, We have therefore landed them.

All Transactions of the Country Government are upon Record, if you chuse to have the Copies of every Transaction sent, Please to advise me and it shall be done though I think it would be better not to trust every thing to the Miscarriage of Letters.

The Affair of 38 : 43 : 48 : 34 (Trichenopoly) rests just as it was according to Consultation of the 3^d. & 10^th. August when you was present. I have not seen the Vakeel for a considerable Time.

Some days ago were sent me the Letters said to be wrote by Captains Cope and Gingins, they are both the same Captain Gingins gives me an Answer in general Terms that he knows nothing directly or indirectly of 45 : 43 : 48 : (Trichenopoly) I only desire he would say whether he order'd such a Letter to be wrote or not.

There is nothing certain of Balazarow, some say he is return'd.

M^r. Starke writes me he always sends you Copy of Dalton's Letters.

The Nabob should seriously consider his Affairs, Horse and Money are wanting; I don't care to be too plain now but shall write very fully by the Dragon.

I am glad to hear Bongarry is retaken and hope I shall soon be advis'd of your Success; The great Desertion when the Entrenchment was attack'd makes me think the Enemy are not so strong as reported. I wish the Nabob could only once bring them to an Engagement. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THO^s. SAUNDERS

P.S.

This Minute 49 : 50 : 52 : 53 (the Nabob) informs me that 33 : 48 : 43 : 34 (Trichenopoly) is greatly distress'd, he certainly shou'd be thought of and his Friend should talk with 49. 50. 52. 53 (the Nabob) and pursue such Measures as he judges proper.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 23rd.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The Military Correspondence read

Two Lettters from Major Lawrence, the last just receiv'd by Cattemaran are as follow.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R.

Sir Trividy Camp 19 April 1753.

I have receiv'd your Letter N^o. 12 to me and a Copy of yours N^o. 9 to Captain Dalton.

You will find in my last the Resolution I am forc'd to take in regard to Publick Transactions which I again repeat that I will never make any Alterations or undertake any new Expedition without positive Orders from you and the Council and not discretionary that the scheme may be yours, mine the Execution, when I fail of my Duty after this, you may then censure me with Reason.

If Captain Dalton is to be reinforc'd and his Situation seems to cry aloud for it, tis high time to determine something, for the Rising of the Rivers (and that Season is approaching) will put it out of our Power to assist him; the King of Tanjour has offer'd himself as a Mediator between the Daloway & Nabob of which the latter has wrote you fully. Is not this a Contrivance to gain Time and favour his Views in the Affair of Bribing or do they want to amuse us till the Waters come down? You know my Sentiments are for Peace but the safest Way of concluding it is Sword in hand.

Should you chuse that a Force able to make it's way thro' the Mysore Army (which is absolutely requisite if any is order'd) should march to Trichenopoly, please to tell me whether I must go there myself or detach a Party of two hundred Europeans, Six hundred Seapoys or more and four Pieces of Cannon your Determination in either of these Cases or any other shall be instantly put in Execution and let me beg that you won't delay a Minute in answering this Letter, the Tappies have not yet miscarried and Dispatch is of the utmost Consequence. Captain Kilpatrick is return'd from Bongarry, I'll endeavour to amuse the Enemy and if possible distress them for four or five days more in which time I hope to be honour'd with your Orders; The Scheme of cutting off the Enemy's Provisions by lying betwixt them and Pondicherry is impracticable while they have Horse and We have none, I only expected to plague them a little as they had done us but now Trichenopoly demands all our Attention.

I wrote Maskelyne a great while ago that I never would nominate an Officer to relieve Captain Sanderson or interfere in any thing at a Distance as you formerly convinc'd me I had no Business with these Things. Please to let me know who you appoint to relieve him and M^r. Innis, they shall be sent immediately if in Camp, if not I have nothing to do with them.

As I never sent Captain Pigou to Devecotah what Necessity is there that I should order him out or how do I know that he will obey my Orders.

There are two Companies vacant and some Subalterns, our Distress for Officers makes it necessary to fill them up immediately, in pointing out this I recommend nobody, You know best who are fittest.

Bodginrow was kill'd not Moraree as I mention'd in a former Letter. By Accounts from the Enemy's Camp the Morattas are greatly incens'd against their Allies but more against the Nabob and us for killing so considerable a Prince of

theirs, they have put on Yellow Cloathing and swear they'll give no Quarter but this Threat puts me in mind of the Regiment de la Mort in France who never have been in Action, the Morattas keep an awful Distance and are not to be feared.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R.

Sir Fort S^t. David 22^d. April 1753.

On the 20^th. in the Evening I receiv'd a Letter from Captain Dalton, Copy of which is inclos'd, wherein he acquaints me that Trichinopoly is in very great Danger occasion'd by the Insincerity of Kiroudy Cawn and their want of Provisions this determin'd me to relieve him at all Events as it is an Affair of the Utmost Consequence to the Interests of our Honble Masters and accordingly that Night I wrote him word that if possible I would be with him in thirteen days, directed him to acquaint all the People with the news and endeavour to keep their Spirits up though their Provisions should fall short which I greatly fear will be the Case.

Yesterday after providing for the Security of Trividy by leaving Captain Chase with one hundred & fifty Europeans and four hundred Seapoys besides the Nabob's People in it, I mov'd with a light Army to Trivendupuram and came here myself to provide the Necessaries requisite for our March where I was glad to find a Letter from You and the Council which order'd this Step and agrees with my Opinion in it, we shall reach Archapachitty tonight and move from thence tomorrow taking the Rout of the Tanjour Country as well for the Ease of procuring Provisions and Necessaries as the prospect of getting some of their Horse to join us, I have wrote to the King of Tanjour on this Subject.

In my last I mention'd the sending two hundred Europeans but now the Affair is too serious and it would be the highest Imprudence to risque a Miscarriage by which the Fort is inevitably lost and the whole Cause perhaps ruin'd, I should not have taken this Step however without positive Orders from you, if urgent Necessity had not compell'd me to it.

The Season has been very sickly which lessens our Numbers, a hundred & twenty Men at one time have been in the Hospital and several of our Officers are likewise ill.

I am

Sir

Your most humble and most

Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

Copy of Captain Dalton's Letter to Major Lawrence referr'd to in the foregoing Letter.

Dear Major Trichenopoly April 13. 1753.

I wrote you lately several Letters that by the present Situation of the Enemy we are so blockaded that n[ot] the least Provisions of any Sort can possibly come into the Fort, they keep likewise at such a vast Distance that there is no Possibility of interrupting them, they never now since they attack'd our Advanc'd Post approach within Cannon Shot.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1758.*——

Kiroudy Cawn has been often pressing me to write to you to come this way which I imputed to his Fears as he is a timorous Man, but last Night he sent for Mr. Harrison and me and protested to us before God that there was now but twenty days Provision for the Garrison within the Walls and that if you don't speedily march this way all will be ruin'd, I have always been very cautious of applying to you on that Head least such a Movement might prejudice your Affairs but as Things now stand and Kiroudy Cawn having likewise apply'd to me in writing which is I suppose to throw the Blame of what may happen off himself, it is to be sure my Duty to acquaint you of it, particularly as it is an Affair of the utmost Consequence.

It is but a month ago that I demanded of him in the Governours Name what Quantity of Provisions were in the Garrison and he assur'd me of four months at least, what Interest he could have in deceiving me I cant conceive.

There is so little Time now to spare that your sending a Detachment would not answer; The Enemy will inevitably endeavour, and if not stop them, at least considerably detain them on the Road. I am perswaded that if on the Receipt of this you only make a Couple of Marches this way the Rajah will instantly decamp for he trembles at your Name and should he stay till you arrive at Samoyeveram we can soon dispatch him between two Fires tho' I am very certain that before you arrive at Wolconda he won't be far from Caroor.

The shortness of our Provisions which the Nabob 'till now always kept a Secret to me, is a Thunder Clap at this Juncture; however it is exactly the State of Affairs as he has represented to us under his Seal and I could not avoid representing it to You as it is of the utmost Consequence and I am perswaded that you'll take the necessary Steps to assist us. With regard to my Europeans we could make forty Shifts but the Black Fellows will all decamp the first day they want their Rice.

I am

Your most Obedient & very humble Servant

JOHN DALTON

Since I wrote the above the Nabob has been at me again to sollicit you to arrive here before fifteen days from the Date of this. I have already said all he told me on the Subject & can only assure you that whatever Distress we are driven to you'll find that while I have Life I will not render myself unworthy of my Charge.

Captain Dalton in a Letter to the President dated the 11th. Instant after repeating his former Account of the Enemy's Situation &c^{a} adds a Postscript of the 12th.—"Since "I wrote the above to my utter Amazement the Nabob * sent for me & Mr. Harrison "and inform'd us that he had now Provisions in the Garrison but for fifteen or "twenty days at most and that if we did not instantly apply to the Major to come "this way we might expect to be left after that Time with only our Europeans in "the Fort. I reproach'd him with his Idleness in desiring me to inform you that he "had for four months at least, he said it was not customary to discover what Pro-"visions were in a Fort and that he would not now if there was not an absolute "Necessity for it; I have wrote fully to the Major who I dare say will instantly "move this way the news of which will I am pretty sure frighten the Daloway away; "I am in vast hopes he'll arrive soon till when I shall use my utmost Endeavours to "keep up the Spirits of the Black People.

* Meaning the Nabob's Brother Kiroudy Cawn.

Although the Army's moving from Trivedy leaves the Trivendupuram &c^{a} Countries about S^{t}. David entirely open and defenceless whence many Mischiefs may ensue, yet considering the present distress'd Situation of Trichenopoly as represented by Capt^{n}. Dalton which unless immediately reliev'd must inevitably fall into the Mysoreans Hands, an Event in it's Consequences more to be dreaded than the Efforts of the Enemy about S^{t}. David we entirely approve of the Measures Major Lawrence has taken by marching to it's Relief.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

Major Lawrence in his Letter of the 15th Inst. complains (speaking of himself and Mr. Starke) that they have never been acquainted with our General Plan and Designs in Consequence of which the President acquaints the Board that although this Plan is so obvious and has frequently been mention'd in the Letters to those Gentlemen he thinks it necessary to repeat in general our present Views and to desire Mr. Starke and the Major will consult with the Nabob & then give us their Opinion on the present Circumstances of Affairs and what Measures they think should be pursued and a Draught of a Letter from the President on that Subject is now read and approv'd and is as follows.

To Richard Starke and

Stringer Lawrence Esqrs.

Gentlemen

The Nabob's Army having been a considerable Time in the Field and not able to effect any thing of Consequences his Horse being greatly inferiour to those of Moraree, the Enemy having entrench'd themselves and now become so strong that the Nabob finds it impossible to force them, at least such an Undertaking would be attended with great Hazard, in this Situation it seems necessary to take a General Review of his Affairs and consult what Measures are proper to proceed on.

The General Plan I conceive to be this that by the Divisions fomented in the Province and the Ambitious Views of our Neighbours, the Welfare of our Honble Masters Settlements seem to be in Danger to avert which we support Mahomed Ally Cawn as the French did Chunda Saib. From time to time the different Interests that prevail, Alliances contracted, Good or Ill Success, our own or the Enemy's Strength or Weakness are all so many Springs that as they incline will give a new Face to Affairs and afford Matter for our most serious Consideration the Result of which will always be the Plan for Action. These Gentlemen are my Sentiments, if they should any way vary from yours, please to communicate to me, that with unanimous Efforts we may endeavour to dispell those Clouds that are gathering round us.

The Advices and Letters we receive from several Powers I think many of them may be often doubted whether genuine, all that can be said is there is a bare Possibility of their being otherwise and the Interests of these Princes are so fluctuating ever to be biass'd by Corruption that we can only reap any present Advantage that may offer but never regard them with any Certainty or put such a Dependence as to proceed on them as a fix'd Plan.

It is thought that Sidoo Lascar Cawn being appointed Duan to Salabat Jung will cause great Alteration Mons. Bussy is arrived at Metchlepatam with a hundred men It's said the rest will be dismiss'd by Salabat Jung, be it as it will we are certain these Troops can be recall'd whenever Mr. Dupliex pleases.

Balazarow it's said is returning to his Country, some Report the Mysore King has accommodated Matters with him.

The King of Tanjour is cautious how he involves himself in these Troubles, at least waits to see which is the strongest Party.

The Mysore King insists on Trichinopoly which by Captain Daltons and the Nabob's Representations, must be reliev'd after so many repeated Letters to the Nabob, Kiroudy Cawn & Captain Dalton to throw in Provisions when they might have done it, the neglect is inexcusable and to let so large a Part of the Garrison be surpriz'd when so particular Orders were given for Circumspection, is Conduct highly blameable. Arcot & Changleput are much in the same Situation as to Provisions nor do the Nabob's Amuldars pay a single Cash.

I think it would be necessary that Mr. Lawrence should talk with the Nabob on these Affairs, represent to him the Situation of the several Forts and know whether he will supply them or not lay before him the large Expences and desire to know in

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

what Manner he purposes to support them, convince him of the Necessity of three or four thousand Good Horse and see if he knows the means of raising them, these will enable you to form a Judgment of the present Situation, should the Nabob neither be able to supply his Forts, raise Money for Expences or get a Reinfocement of Horse please to give me your Opinion whether you think we are able to support the Charge and have Force sufficient and what Methods you think will be most prudent to pursue. We may reasonably suppose the French will have a strong Reinforcement & we may hope also we shall be supply'd accordingly.

One thing I cannot omit taking Notice of, that when the Nabobs Affairs had a gloomy Appearance at Trichenopoly he enter'd into a Correspondence with the French & would I belive if things had not taken a more favourable Turn have accepted their Proposals. It is reported that Moraree would have perswaded him to this lately, should he take such a Step it would greatly prejudice us for our Welfare depends but too much on his Government & this he is too sensible of.

I agree that Secrecy is extremely necessary in these Transactions and am therefore very cautious; on your requesting the Supply of Men they were called in from the several Garrisons & the Affair not laid before the Board 'till ready to be put in Execution; Please to prevent as much as possible any thing of a publick Nature being wrote up here in private Letters.

Our Honble Masters Ship Godolphin sail'd the 21st. Instant.

Fort St. George
23d. April 1753.

I am Gentlemen Your most Obedt. Servt. Thos. Saunders.

Lieutenant Innis at Changleput writes that the Country thereabouts has been very quiet since the Enemy were drove from Caurandypollam but that the Nabob's Officers are continually importuning him for Ammunition which they say they are wholly unprovided with and cannot procure and he is well assur'd they have not sufficient to defend themselves if attack'd.

Thos. Saunders
Chas. Boddam
Henry Powney
Ar. Wynch
John Smith

The President receiv'd a Letter from Captain Sanderson at Arcot advising 25th.
that Abdul Vahab Cawn having sollicited him for a Party of Men & some Guns to demolish a small Fort belonging to the Enemy, he in Compliance datach'd thirty Europeans with two Field Pieces and two Companies of Seapoys under the Command of Lieutenant Smith who in Conjunction with the Nabob's Forces commanded by his Brother Nagee Boula Cawn accordingly demolish'd the Fort and hearing of the Enemy's Approach advanc'd to meet them although they were greatly superiour in Number both in Horse and Foot and had three Field Pieces. An Engagement ensued in which the Nabob's Forces and one of the Company's of Seapoys behav'd extremely ill hiding themselves behind Trees instead of supporting the Europeans who after three times repulsing the Enemy were at length overpower'd by Numbers and (except Mr. Smith & three or four Europeans taken Prisoners) almost all kill'd, which has greatly reduc'd his Garrison.

The President on Receipt of the abovemention'd Letter having immediately communicated it to the several Gentlemen of Council they are unanimously of Opinion that it is absolutely necessary to reinforce the Garrison of Arcot as expeditiously as possible.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, APRIL 1753.*——

26th. In Consequence of the General Opinion that Arcot should be reinforc'd the President this day detach'd Lieutenant Symmonds (who with the Men he lately commanded for the Protection of these Parts return'd hither a few days ago) and a Party of Europeans & Seapoys with Orders to proceed directly for Arcot and remain there with fifteen Europeans and return the Remainder of the Party back hither as soon as possible under the Command of Lieutenant Paterson. That if the Enemy should offer to interrupt him in his Rout to avoid if possible coming to an Engagement and to encamp securely at Night.

The President at the same time wrote to Cap$^{t.}$ Sanderson that he was surpriz'd he should notwithstanding the repeated Letters to the contrary send out Parties on such Adventures, that the Nabob's Perswasions should have no Weight in Opposition to positive Orders which he now repeats that no Detachment be made from the Garrison on any Account whatever.

Monday the 30th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq$^{R.}$ Gov$^{R.}$ Pres$^{DT.}$
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The President acquaints the Board that M$^{r.}$ Starke writes him Major Lawrence with the Forces were arriv'd at Chellumbrum in their Way to Trichenopoly without Molestation and that Moraree was at Villenour.

Copy of a Letter from the President to Major Lawrence is now read and approv'd and is as follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq$^{R.}$

Sir Fort S$^{t.}$ George 26$^{th.}$ April 1753.

M$^{r.}$ Starke advises me every thing is quiet and that Moraree is at Villenour settling accounts with Mons$^{r.}$ Dupliex and probably concerting a Plan.

I hope this will find you at Trichenopoly I think the Magazines of Stores and Ammunition should be examin'd & replenish'd as soon as possible. That as the Dependence is on our Troops no Step should be taken but with Captain Dalton's Approbation and that this be settled openly with Kiroudy Cawn and all useless People turn'd out of the Place.

The Nabob's Family can be of no Service there if he was to take this Opportunity of removing them to Cuddalore it might be attended with many Advantages.

I suppose we shall soon know the Enemy's Motions if Arcot Trivedy or Changleput be attack'd 'twill be impossible for them to hold out long.

I am perswaded M$^{r.}$ Dupliex's Scheme is to withdraw some Forces from Salabat Jung, no time is to be lost in concerting Measures to traverse his Designs, if the Morattas could be drawn off from him 'twould be a great Point, the King of Tanjour's joining us would be another, Consult with the Nabob and learn his Designs, the Expence is large how will he support it.

The more expeditious you are in finishing Affairs at Trichenopoly the better; Captain Dalton may possibly desire to be reliev'd, I don't think any Officer so proper for that Command as himself.

Captain Sanderson has very indiscreetly sent out a small Party very near Veloor who are all kill'd wounded or taken Prisoners with the Loss of their Guns, Lieutenant Smith and five Men are Prisoners at Veloor, Ensign Melotte & Doctor Swynton wounded, this has oblig'd us to reinforce that Place. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

P.S.

I have receiv'd your Letters N°. 8 & 9, agreeable to your Desire Orders from the Governour and Council have been sent.

The President acquaints the Board that notwithstanding his repeated Orders to Captain Sanderson & Lieut^t. Innis to press the Nabob's Officers to lay in a good Store of Provisions in Arcot & Changleput he has reason to apprehend these Instances however pressing have had but little Effect and that those places are in the same Situation as Trichinopoly under which Circumstances if the Enemy during Major Lawrence's Absence with the Army should attack either of them they would probably not be able to hold out 'till Succours could arrive, he had therefore directed M^r. Wynch (Contractor for supplying the Army) to lay in two Month's Provisions in each of those Garrisons, which the Board approve.

Two Company's of Nellour Seapoys under the Command of Annupasing having complain'd that large Arrears are due to them which though they have frequently apply'd for to the Nabob's Officers they have never been able to obtain, the President represented their Case to Abdul Vahab Cawn and receiv'd for Answer that they are to be paid by the Amuldar of Conjeveram. As these Seapoys are good Veterans if they through Dissatisfaction should go over to the Enemy which seems probable, the Loss of them at this Time would be some Prejudice to the Nabob, 'tis Agreed to interest ourselves with Sumpetrow (the Nabob's Duan) and the said Amuldar to procure the Payment of the Arrears and that the Seapoys be sent to them.

THO^S. SAUNDERS
CHA^S. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^R. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

Monday the 7th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRES^DT.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The President lays before the Board a Letter from Balazarow and another from the Mysore Daloway with his Answer to the latter, the Contents are as follow.

That from Balazarow acknowledges the Receipt of the Presidents Letters and greatly commends our Conduct in assisting Nabob Anaverdy Cawn, he further says that he intended to have march'd with his Army into this Province to settle it but the Monsoon approaching obliges him to decline it that however he has desir'd the Mysore People and the Governour of Pondicherry to conclude a Peace with Anaverdee Cawn & recommends it to us also to use our Endeavours to effect it and adds that after the Monsoon he will come into these Parts with a proper Army.

The Dalloway's Letter renews his Claim & Pretensions to Trichenopoly, accuses the Nabob of Treachery in not surrendering it conformable to his two Agreements for which he receiv'd a valuable Consideration and adds that if the Nabob had no Right to give away Trichenopoly 'twas Perfidy in him to agree to it. In regard to his Promise of settling the Nabob in the Arcot Province he refers to the said Agreements whereby he says it will appear whether he was not to have perform'd this in consequence of the Forts being deliver'd up to him, and if he has committed Hostilities 'twas only against those who oppos'd his taking Possession of what he esteems his Property. That Moraree is not in his Pay and even if he were he did not join the French 'till the Term for the Surrender of Trichenopoly was expir'd without a Compliance on the Nabob's Part. Throughout the whole he seems to charge us as Principals or at least to lay great Blame on us in this Affair and complains of the Detention here of Vencatarow his Vakeel.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*— ——

The President in answer tells him that tis wrong to consider him as a Principal, that he has no Right to Trichenopoly or Arcot, that he enter'd into a strict Alliance & Friendship with Nabob Anaverdy Cawn and 'tis the Custom of our Nation inviolably to observe Engagements of this Sort, therefore tis just he should support his Ally and if Dissentions have arisen between the Nabob & Daloway he is not blameable, however he would willingly be a Friend to the one and the other, but at the same time he is of Opinion that they are both culpable, the Nabob for promising to give what was not his and the Dalloway for offering to take it knowing the former had no Right to alienate it. That the only way to recover what he has advanc'd for the Nabob is to settle him in his Government, not to ruin him and offers his Endeavours to bring about a Reconciliation between them assuring him that no Harm shall happen to Vencatarow but that he shall return in safety.

The Camp Correspondence is also produc'd & read.

Major Lawrence's Advices are as follow.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r.

Sir

The Army in general was so much fatigu'd with the March from Trivedy that it oblig'd me to halt yesterday at Chellumbrum, what retards us so constantly is the Desertion of our Coolies & Drivers, the falling down of our Europeans through the Heat of the Season and the Want of Conveyances to bring them on so that our Numbers are greatly decreas'd both in Military and Seapoys; However as the Tanjoreens shew us a good Countenance and a ready Assistance I am in hopes we shall finish the March without halting more than one or two days at most.

I have no certain Advice of the Enemy's Motions the Nabob informs me that Captain Dalton has heard of our Intentions to relieve him and that the Garrison in general is in high Spirits on the Occasion and Clement Povery who met me on the March today gives me to believe that the Tanjoreens & Polygars will join the Nabob when he is further advanc'd in the Country.

We have found it absolutely necessary to pay our Coolies &c^a. the former Price of a quarter of a Rupee and M^r. Palk informs me that our Cash will be expended the middle of next Month, which induces me to desire you will be pleas'd to contrive some Method of supplying us. I fear the Nabob has it not in his Power to assist us with Money though I shall be as pressing as possible whenever there is the least Probability of Succeeding.

I cannot form any judgment of the King of Mysore's Force & Situation at Trichinopoly but I shall be glad of your Directions in case any Overtures are made or proper to be made.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

S. Lawrence.

Camp at Seally
26^th. April 1753.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r.

Sir

My last was of the 26th from Seally I came yesterday to this Place, where we pass'd the last Night but indifferently as it rain'd very heavily and having no Cover for our People.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

At noon I receiv'd a Copy of your Letter of the 23$^{d.}$ from M$^{r.}$ Starke to which I can only say that I am but a very imperfect Judge of the Springs of the different Interests which prevail in this Country and the Consequences to be expected from them, whatever is thought to be for the Interest of our Honble Masters I shall always gladly execute and to the best of my Capacity.

The King of Tanjour is certainly very Cautious, indeed I cannot blame him as his Country is at stake I have receiv'd two Letters from his assuring me of his Friendship to the English Nation and his Desire to become a Mediator between them & the Mysore King which he has already signified to the latter and is in daily Expectation of his Answer, tomorrow I am to have a Conference with one of his Generals and as we advance nearer the Metropolis, M$^{r.}$ Palk will wait on him which I think will be the properest Method to find out his Sentiments.

I have often represented to the Nabob the Situation of his several Forts and the great Necessity of their being well provided but all to no Purpose, and as to three or four thousand good Horse it is as impossible for him to raise them as to pay those who are already in his Service though of little or no use. Whether we are able to support the Charge and what Methods will be most prudent to pursue I must beg to leave to you.

In the present Situation I believe there is no Danger of the Nabob's accepting any Proposals from his Enemy.

I shall always be as cautious as possible in regard to Secrecy and I have more than once desir'd that nobody will enlarge in their Letters on Publick Affairs.

I have no Advices from Cap$^{t.}$ Dalton but I hear that Morari and his Allies are moving towards Trichenopoly.

I am Sir Your most Obed$^{t.}$ & most humble Serv$^{t.}$

Additure 29th April 1753. S. LAWRENCE

Captain Chase (whom Major Lawrence left in the Command of Trivedy) in several Letters to M$^{r.}$ Starke advises to the following Effect. In one of the 26$^{th.}$ April he says he is inform'd by his Spies in the Enemy's Camp that two hundred Europeans & Topasses, two thousand Moratta Horse and twelve hundred Seapoys with four Guns were march'd after our Army towards Trichenopoly. That two Platoons of French, one hundred and twenty Topasses & Coffreys and about three hundred Seapoys attempted to take Possession of Trivedy Village but he made a Sally, drove them out of it & pursued them two Miles, In another of the 2$^{d.}$ Instant he gives the disagreeable News that the Enemy appearing in the Morning in a Tope near Trivedy Village, he sent Lieutenant Davis and Ensign Cudmore with sixty Europeans and two hundred Seapoys to prevent their taking Possession of the Village, but M$^{r.}$ Davis to annoy them the more, march'd out towards them when a large Party of Moratta Horse attack'd him in Flank, our Seapoys immediately run away which threw the Europeans into Confusion, the Morattas took the Advantage, rode in upon them, kill'd some & took the rest Prisoners. That some of the Seapoys return'd to the Fort, which he will defend to the last Extremity. That the Enemy are in Possession of the Village and keep a brisk Fire which is return'd; In another of the 3$^{d.}$ he mentions that the Enemy have erected a Bomb Battery and are throwing Shells into the Fort, but that the Garrison are in good Spirits.

The President on Receipt of Captain Chase's Letter of the 26$^{th.}$ April giving an account of his Successful Sally wrote to him under Date the 3$^{d.}$ May as follows.

"M$^{r.}$ Starke has sent me Copy of your Letter to him giving an Account of the "Enemy's Attempt to make a Lodgment in Trivedy Town and their Retreat; As "your particular Care is the Fort of Trivedy for the Nabob, be cautious that by any "trifling Successes you are not led into an ambuscade as at this juncture the "Security of the Place and not any Advantages over the Enemy is the Point in view.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.* ——

By Letters from Captain Dalton the Enemy's Situation and Intention appear to be much the same as mention'd in his last Advices. They have a prodigious Number of Cooleys at Work in throwing up Intrenchments all round the Fort, however some Cooleys from Tondaman's Country found means to get one hundred & fifty Sheep, some Rice Ghee &c^{a}· into the Fort & promises shortly to bring more.

Letters from Arcot & Changleput mention that the Country is at present undisturb'd and they do not hear of any Parties of the Enemy that way.

The Presidents Letters to Major Lawrence since last Consultation are as follow viz^{t}·

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^{r}·

Sir Fort S^{t}· George 4th· May 1753.

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 26th· Ultimo.

By Advices from S^{t}· David every thing appears quiet there and at Trivedy; I hear of no Parties this way so that I conclude they are march'd after you.

Arcot has been reinforc'd with two Subalterns and some Men, I hope Captain Sanderson will pay a stricter regard to his Orders and send abroad no more Parties.

M^{r}· Starke writes me Shaik Hussan has made his Escape and is safe at Pondicherry, I have particularly desir'd a strict Scrutiny may be made as I am of Opinion this must have been effected by Bribery.

I have lately no Advices of Salabat Jung or Balazarow.

The Mysore Daloway has wrote me a letter the Contents of which are his Pretensions to Trichenopoly and the Nabob's Injustice interspers'd with pompous Relations of the Power & Riches of his Country.

You desire Directions in case Overtures should be made, I have already wrote you & M^{r}· Starke of Publick Affairs which from the Nabob demand some Explanation, Efforts have been made to engage the Enemy but prov'd unsuccessful, large Sums have been advanc'd as yet only replac'd with Promises, each Month will still add to them and the Enemy must probably grow stronger, The Nabob shews a surprizing Supineness, Providence and the English are his only Resource, indeed I wish he may not be too sensible that our Interests are greatly concern'd in his Fortune, be this as it will can he support the Expences or can or ought we to do it? For our own parts we can judge and I think it will be absolutely necessary to bring him to the Point & know from him his Resolution and Intention, some Caution should be us'd in this as he may again come to Terms with the Enemy as he did at Trichenopoly; By this you will be able to judge of his Strength to pursue his Plan and the Proposals he intends to make for Treaty, he has not wrote a Word of the latter, if he comes to any Accommodation with the Dalloway we may act as a Friend to both of them but be cautious that we don't involve ourselves in any thing that may bring us into future Disputes and Quarrels and that he does not come to any Agreement that may be prejudicial to us.

It does not appear to me he is capable to provide & maintain a Force equal to the present Occasions nor do I think we can do it, therefore if he can accommodate his Affairs 'twould be best, but if he does this with the Daloway how will he do it with the French who are inexorable & should not he take care that the Daloway does not deceive him? At all Events Moraree must be drawn off, as several of the Circumstances depend upon his & the Daloway's Measures tis impossible for me to write determinately of them.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

Lieut^{t}· Trusler is dead and Ensign Melotte in a dangerous way.

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
THOMAS SAUNDERS.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^{R}·

Sir, Fort S^{t}· George, 5th May 1753.

I wrote you last night and to day receiv'd yours N^{o}· 11.

I am of your Opinion in regard to the King of Tanjour who is cautious, he is so far blameable because without Application he promis'd to join the Nabob, at the same time declaring that if the Mysore King got Trichenopoly his Country would be ruin'd, I think you should not be too open with him in regard to your Measures nor confide too much in his Mediation.

Changleput has two Months Store in it and by this time I hope Arcot has the same this is upon no Account to be made use of for daily Expence but reserv'd.

Captain Chase has fallen into the same Error as Captain Sanderson and lost Ensign Davis and sixty Men who are either kill'd or taken Prisoners.

I must repeat that I don't conceive the Nabob is able to support the Expence nor do I think we can or ought to do it, therefore after hearing his Proposals you may advise him to pursue such Measures as are most beneficial to him & us, his Debt in December was ten Lacks and is since greatly increas'd, how to reimburse this should be consider'd and that he enter into no Measures detrimental to our Affairs, at the same time as he has the Government of the Province whatever is done must be his Act that we may not be hereafter embarrass'd. In regard to Treaty I believe you are convinc'd the French will not treat, he may and I think should come to an amicable Composition with Murtaz Ally Cawn and possibly with the Daloway but he should be careful that he does not put it in his Power to ruin him by any immediate Concessions.

Notwithstanding the Daloways Money the French must be at a great Expence, they may wait the Arrival of their Ships and Advices but if these are not very agreeable I fancy they will be heartily tir'd as well as We are and possibly treat, should the present Negotiation succeed the Nabob may then propose it to them which is the only Method to settle the Province in Peace.

Letters from Bombay last Night and some of an old Date from Europe but no particular Advices.

I am Sir Your most obedient Servant
THOMAS SAUNDERS

All which the Board approve.

THO^{S}· SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}· BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}· WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Fryday the 11th.
THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^{R}· Gov^{R}· Pres^{DT}·
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

The President lays before the Board the private Correspondence which is read as follows viz^{t}·

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

FROM MAJOR LAWRENCE, TO THE PRESIDENT

Sir

Inclos'd are two Letters for you and M^r^· Starke from Tondaman who promises all the Assistance in his Power & 20, 21, 50, 51 (the King of Tanjour has resolv'd 80, 81, 82 (to join) with two thousand Horse provided we halt two days at Condore where I purpose to march in the morning. None of my Letters have yet reach'd 43. 45. 48 (Trichenopoly) at least I have no answer; by that of the 22d of last Month which I forwarded to you yesterday I am glad to find that a Supply is got in and I make no doubt but we shall soon restore it to an open Communication.

Pray favour me as soon as possible with Instructions in case of Overtures from 45. 46. 48 (Mysore King) a new gold Plain Watch will be very acceptable to 48. 51. 52 (the King of Tanjore).

I hear that Chellumbrum is summon'd, I hope it will want no Assistance that 55. 57. 59. 60. 61 (M^r^· Starke—the English) can give it.

I am sorry to inform you that 50 of 105, 93, 95 (the Military) are sick, the Loss of Captain Pepper M^r^· Trusler and others unable to do their Duty make it highly necessary that the Vacancies should be fill'd up, the Voluntiers with us behave well & deserve Encouragement but Hambleton's Colour is so disagreeable to the Private Men, that it will be impossible for him ever to carry a proper Command besides he does not appear to me to have any Turn to the profession.

I am

Sir

Your most humble & most Obed^t^· Serv^t^·

Paupanashum 1st May 1753 S. LAWRENCE

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R^·

FROM THE PRESIDENT TO MAJOR LAWRENCE.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R^·

Sir Fort S^t^· George 9^th^ May 1753.

I have none of yours to reply to.

Since I last wrote you I have receiv'd a Letter said to come from Balazarow, wherein he says the lateness of the Season prevents his coming into the Province as intended but that he purposes it after the Monsoon, He recommends a Reconciliation between all Parties and mentions to have wrote the Daloway & Mons^r^· Dupliex on this subject.

M^r^· Starke writes me Trivedy is closely besieg'd.

M^r^· Dupliex refuses to give Subsistence or afford a Surgeon to the Prisoners in Pondicherry, I don't imagine he will persist in this.

It is reported the Mysore King accommodated Affairs with Balazarow for twenty five Lacks of Rupees.

What you have wrote me concerning the King of Tanjours offering to be Mediator raises some Suspicion as I have not a Line from him on the Subject and his Vakeel assures me it cannot be, neither have I heard from the Nabob though he told you he had wrote me a long Letter, his Vakeel says the King of Tanjour has no such Intentions, that he has been in the French Interest, at least neutral since Manojee's Disgrace & that his Intention is only to amuse should this be the Case and that the Daloway is join'd by Moraree and the French and at the same time if the King of Tanjour should be treacherous, I am apprehensive you will be immers'd in

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

Difficulties and as you have the greatest Part of our Forces with you, should any Accident happen our Affairs will be irretrievable, I think therefore you cannot be too cautious in preventing your Communication with S^{t}. David being cut off and the greatest Expedition is necessary in finishing your Affairs there as we have it not in our Power to relieve any Place and the Enemy's Army will retake every one.

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS.

Extract of a Letter from M^{r}. Starke to the President dated 5th. May 1753.

" Inclos'd is a Letter from the Major &c^{a}. also one from Captain Schaub to " me relating to Lieutenant Davis &c^{a}. Prisoners which I forward that you may give " Mr. Dupliex such an Answer as you judge proper.

" In regard to your Letter of the 23^{d}. April address'd to the Major and me " jointly of which you ask whether it has my Approbation I must beg to decline " giving my separate Opinion till the Army returns from Trichenopoly as we shall " have much better Helps to form a Plan on after seeing what Turn Affairs take " there, they are now fluctuating and absolutely require a little Time to be " unravell'd.

FROM M^{R}. STARKE TO THE PRESIDENT

Honble Sir

I have receiv'd your Favours of the 4th. & 5th. Instant inclosing a Letter for the Nabob, one for the Daloway and another for Major Lawrence which last is now before me.

Trivedy surrender'd last Night at 5 oClock, by the Report of a Topass who got away in the hurry, he further says the Men refus'd to maintain the Fort any longer as a Breach was made & the Defences destroyed.

As there is no Time to be lost I think it my Duty to take Notice of your Letter which however shall be forwarded as directed.

And first it has ever been my fix'd Opinion and I thought the General one that the Nabob is entirely at our Disposal, that whatever you judge for the Interest of the whole he must stand to, and indeed the Situation of his Affairs demonstrate that it can't be otherwise.

You mention that it will be necessary to bring the Nabob to the Point whether he can support the Expence of the War; I'll undertake to answer that He can't.

In regard to the Question whether we ought to do it, I can only say that You and the Gentlemen of Council who have hitherto conducted every thing are the best judges, Major Lawrence & I have only meddled in those Particulars that fell immediately under our Inspection.

I don't think the Nabob has any Right to make Terms with the Daloway but what are dictated by You and the Major has already positively declar'd that he will not act under Discretionary Orders, it necessarily follows that unless you manage all Negotiations yourself or send somebody that will undertake it with full Powers from you and your Council, the Interests of our Honble Masters will be endanger'd.

Moraree can never be drawn off if the Dalloway is not satisfied, there's no Occasion for consulting the Nabob in any Respect, he must & will be guided by you.

These Observations proceed from the Dictate of a Heart entirely devoted to the Company's Service, and I beg Leave to add that if we are in a Labyrinth occasion'd by the unhappy Disputes between You and the Major nothing but the most vigorous Efforts on your Part can extricate us I call God to witness that no means have been left untry'd by me to accommodate Matters and I will continue to do all I can but

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

Time is precious, let us therefore make the most of it and whatever you order or propose determinately shall be strictly obey'd; Tis in vain to expect that the Major will ever give his Opinion in general unless he's present with you and You & the Gentlemen of Council are certainly more able to settle the Point in Question than I who am a single Person, I therefore submit entirely to you & them being with the greatest Respect.

Fort S^{t}· David
8th· May 1753.

Honble Sir
Your most Obedient Humble Serv^{t}
RICHARD STARKE

THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}·

Extract of a Letter from Captain Schaub, Prisoner at Pondicherry to M^{r}· Starke dated 5th May 1753.

"M^{r}· Dupliex has this instant sent for me to desire me to communicate to you "that although he has a Right to send the Officers he has taken to Europe, by "reason says he that they were taken in a Place belonging to the Nation, he is "willing to exchange them as well as the Soldiers if you are authoriz'd to do it" &c^{a}·

The foregoing Letters & Extracts being read the President in the first Place desires the Sentiments of the Board in relation to what M^{r}· Starke has wrote him; after some time spent in Deliberation they declare it is their unanimous Opinion that by the obvious Sense of the said Letters M^{r}· Starke seems desirous of declining any Concern in Country Affairs as they don't appear at present in the most favourable Light & would willingly leave the whole Burthen on the President & Council here, though as a Member of it, notwithstanding his Absence, he is doubtless equally oblig'd to deliver his Opinion when call'd upon as those who are present and much more so as one of the secret Committee, of which, except the President none of the Council here are Members, and as in the present Precarious Situation of Affairs it may be necessary according as they vary to give immediate Orders to Major Lawrence, the Execution whereof will be greatly delay'd by waiting for Mr. Starke's Opinion which for the Reason above urg'd is judg'd necessary on such Occasions; The Board are of Opinion that his Presence here for some time will be extremely proper for the greater Expedition of all emergent Business as well as to determine the Manner of carrying on the Private Correspondence in future and a Letter to M^{r}· Starke is order'd to be drawn accordingly.

The Board then consider'd of M^{r}· Dupliex's Proposal through the means of Captain Schaub for the Exchange of the Prisoners he lately took at Trivedy and are of Opinion that We have no Right to treat on this Subject as we only act as Auxiliaries to Nabob Anaverdy Cawn, besides that the Terms in which the Proposal is couch'd seem artfully calculated to draw from us a tacit Confession of the Legality of the French Pretensions to Trivedy, as well as their Right of sending the Officers to Europe which can by no means be admitted. Resolv'd therefore that M^{r}· Starke be desir'd to acquaint Captain Schaub that if M^{r}· Dupliex has any thing to offer on this head he must apply to the Nabob Anaverdy Cawn Behader and at the same time to mention that the President did some time ago at Captain Pascaud's Request offer to intercede with the Nabob that he might be exchang'd for Captain Maskelyne which if agreeable to M^{r}· Dupliex he is willing to use his Interest to obtain.

The Present State of Affairs being deliberated on, it is the unanimous Opinion that the Supineness if not false Friendship of the King of Tanjour for whose Assistance tis in vain any longer to hope; the great Advantages the Enemy receive from Moraree whilst we are distress'd for want of Horse; the Nabob's Incapacity to support the Charges of the War or to pay any Part of his large Debt; the heavy Burthen it will be to the Company to defray the continual Demands of the Army and the Distress their Affairs must of Necessity be subjected to unless the Nabob be vigorously supported, render an Accommodation with the Daloway a most desirable Event

——FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.——

if to be brought about on Terms consistent with the General Plan of establishing the Nabob in his Government and thereby setting Bounds to the insatiable Ambition of the French, the first Step to which must be to draw off Moraree, the better to effect this 'tis Agreed that Major Lawrence and Mr. Robert Palk be fully empower'd as Mediators and not as Principals to make and receive Proposals for conciliating the Difference between the Nabob and Dalloway and a Draught of a Letter to serve as Instructions to them is now read and approv'd Copy whereof follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R^.
AND M^R^. ROBERT PALK.

Gentlemen Fort S^t^. George 11^th^. May 1753.

Major Lawrence having advis'd us that the King of Tanjour has offer'd to act as a Mediator to reconcile the Difference between the Nabob & Mysore King and as we are of Opinion such a Reconciliation is absolutely necessary to our own as well as the Nabob's Affairs, we desire you will endeavour to cultivate it hereby giving you full Power and Authority to do the same and desiring you would do it upon the best Terms you can. The following if to be got would be the most advantagious.

It is evident that the Mysore Kings Demand will be Trichenopoly, if it should be so, that if it be agreed to be deliver'd it be on a limited Time on Conditions.

That the Morattas be drawn off from the French.

That the Mysore King & Moratta shall endeavour to settle the Nabob in the Province.

That the Mysore King pay such a Sum of Money to the Nabob and if possible that the Debt to us which is large, be secur'd.

That the King of Tanjore be included in this Treaty & the Mysore King not to molest him or his Country.

That we do not appear as a Principal in this Affair, our Troops may evacuate the Place at the Time appointed.

That you endeavour to prevent the Nobob's entering into Engagements prejudicial to us & that as it plainly appears he is not able to support the Expence you persuade him by all means to treat.

That if the Nabob can find any other Means to bring about an Accommodation 'twill be more eligible but that we think it ought to be effected if possible.

These are what occur to us, If they are not to be attain'd he must do the best he can and we leave it to you to pursue the Measures you judge most proper.

We are
Gentlemen
Your most obedient Servants
THOMAS SAUNDERS
... ...
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

To accompany the foregoing Instructions a Letter from the President to Major Lawrence is read and approv'd and is as follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R^.

Sir Fort S^t^. George 11^th^. May 1753

Last Night M^r^. Starke advis'd of the Surrender of Trivedy.

That nothing may be wanting to promote your Expeditious Dispatch of Affairs we have given full powers to You & M^r^. Palk to accommodate Matters by such Measures as you judge proper. I heartily wish you Success.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

At noon arriv'd Ships Clinton & Suffolk they bring Recruits & Officers, inclos'd is an Extract from the General Letter.

They saw at the Cape several French Ships who have Recruits, Artificers, Women & Children on board, I believe their Reinforcement this year will be very considerable, therefore 'tis my Opinion that Reconciliation with the Nabob & Dalloway is the best Step that can be taken, I still doubt the King of Tanjore's Sincerity & the Nabob's real Intentions, You upon the Spot will be capable of judging of it, I will write you again tomorrow Night.

I am Sir Your most obedient Servant THO$^{S.}$ SAUNDERS.

The President is desir'd to send the Instructions to Messrs. Lawrence & Palk under Cover to M$^{r.}$ Starke, that if he approves he may sign & forward the same.

THO$^{S.}$ SAUNDERS
CHA$^{S.}$ BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A$^{R.}$ WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

13th. Pursuant to the Resolution of last Consultation a General Letter to Richard Starke Esq$^{r.}$ is now sign'd & sent and is as follows

To RICHARD STARKE ESQ$^{R.}$

Sir

The President has communicated to us the Letters he has receiv'd from You dated the 5$^{th.}$ & 8$^{th.}$ Instant by them we observe you are desirous to avoid being concern'd in the Management of Country Affairs and to leave the whole to us, alledging that We alone have acted therein and that You & M$^{r.}$ Lawrence have been no further engag'd in them than what came immediately under your Inspection. As you are a Member of the Private Committee (which except the Presid$^{t.}$ none of us are) and all Affairs relating to the Country Government by our Honble Masters Orders are more immediately under their Direction which in a joint Letter with M$^{r.}$ Lawrence lately you concur in, we judge your Opinion extremely necessary in regard to the Correspondence but as your Distance from hence renders it very inconvenient and in cases of Emergency in the present Situation of Affairs may be of ill Consequence, we think it absolutely proper for you to be with us for a short Time that we may determine in what Manner to carry it on in future and therefore desire you will take the first Opportunity by Sea of coming here leaving in your Absence the Charge of the Settlement and the Management of all our Honble Masters Affairs with M$^{r.}$ Thomas Cooke &c$^{a.}$ Council.

We observe by what M$^{r.}$ Schaub has said to you that M$^{r.}$ Dupliex is inclin'd to make an Exchange of Prisoners, but we don't think we can any ways interfere in it being only Allies, not Principals which We find he would endeavour to make us acknowledge Ourselves, he must therefore make his Application on that Head to Nabob Anaverdee Cawn. It's true the President some time since at the Entreaty of Capt$^{n.}$ Pascaud did offer to intercede with the Nabob for his being exchang'd for Captain [Maskelyne] which if agreeable to M$^{r.}$ Dupliex he is still willing [*a few words lost*] terest to prevail on the Nabob to consent to. [*a few words lost*] please to intimate to Captain Schaub.

We are

Sir

Your most [Obed]ient Servants

Fort S$^{t.}$ George
13$^{th.}$ May 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

Monday the 14th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*
THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRESID^T.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE

The President lays before the Board the Military Correspondence. Major Lawrence writes as follows.

Sir

I came to this Place the 2^d. & with the Nabob visited the King of Tanjour the 3^d. who gave us a very friendly Reception and agreed to join provided we would defer our March two days, the Nabob very readily consented & this Morning their whole Force of Horse & Foot came out to us under the Command of Ganderow Monagee's Successor, at whose desire I have detach'd one hundred Europeans, two Guns and some Seapoys with his Troops to beat up Moraree's Quarters, who is said to be at a Pagoda two Coass distance with his Portugueze & [*a few words lost*] have done more to please the King than [*a few words lost*] real Service as I imagine the Moratta will [*a few words lost*] ir coming. Tomorrow we proceed to Tricka[tapully]next Day to Daloway's Choultry & then to Trichenopoly where I expect to find the Enemy decamp'd.

I must repeat to you that I think it highly necessary some Plan for an Accommodation with 76, 72, 46 (the King of Mysore) should be thought of & if possible concerted immediately, and if 67, 66, 63 (the French) move towards 43, 45, 48 (Trichenopoly) in that case 55, 57, 59 (M^r. Starke) may give us some Diversion in 24, 23, 19, 88 (Fort S^t. David).

The King of Tanjore seems so sensible of his Interest in joining that I am in hopes his Attachment to the Cause may be depended on though 47, 48, 45 (Moraree) & 40, 41, 46 (the King of Mysore) have us'd all Kinds of Methods to dissuade 51, 52, 53 (King of Tanjour) from 80, 81, 82 (joining) near 70 of 61, 105, 106, (Soldiers Europeans & Topass) are so much in 102, 103, 104 (distress) that they cannot 62, 64, 68 (march) 16. 19. 20 has hurt us much, but the King is pleas'd to find that you intend to send him a Gold Watch as a Token of your Friendship.

The Detachment is return'd with Intelligence that the Morattas are march'd off.

When we come near Coiladdy, part of 87. 51. 119 (the Tanjoreens) will return. I am in great fear of 70, 71, 72 (want of Money).

I am Sir
Your most humble and
most obedient servant
STRINGER LAWRENCE.

Camp near Tanjour
5^th. May 1753.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R.

Since finishing my Letter I have great Reason to suspect 55, 65, 25 (Treachery) in 79, 80, 51 (the King of Tanjour) as his People are all return'd & I believe will not 80, 81, 82 & 96, 95, 68 (join and march).

Captain D[alton] advises that having compleated an advanc'd Post and got an eighteen Pounder in it which reach'd the Daloway's Camp, he advanc'd under Cover of it through a hollow Road with his whole Force unperceiv'd and when he got so near the Enemy that his Shot could pass through their Tents he began to fire from two Field Pieces and discharg'd near thirty Rounds before they could assemble out of their Camp in any Numbers to prejudice him and then return'd in good Order to the Advanc'd Post the Enemy pursuing him quite under the Fire of it which quickly oblig'd them to retire. As soon as he had Intelligence that the Enemy were return'd to their Camp in Security & had unsaddled their Horses he again advanc'd

——FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.——

through the same Road unperceiv'd and discharg'd as many more Rounds amongst them which threw the whole Camp into Confusion but his Numbers were too small to venture at any thing further he retreated back to the Fort and at nine oClock gave them a third Alarm which occasion'd great Consternation among them yet the Daloway maintain'd his Ground but on his repeating the Attack the next Morning they in great Disorder quitted their Camp which he immediately took Possession of while the Enemy retreated towards Syringham without ever endeavouring to regain it, by this Means the Communication is again open'd with Tondaman's Country from whence large Supplies of Provisions have been brought into the Fort, the Enemy continue Syringham seemingly much dispirited which they will probably quit on the Major's Approach.

THO^{S}· SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}· BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}· WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

18th· The President having receiv'd a Letter from Richard Starke Esq^{r}· acquainting him that Chellumbrum is again besieg'd by the Enemy, that we have a Party of fifteen Men there & desiring to know whether he shall endeavour to fling in a Reinforcement the same was communicated to the several Members of the Council who were unanimously of Opinion that if the Place is tenable with such an additional Strength as can be spar'd from Fort S^{t}· David it ought certainly to be reinforc'd, otherwise not, and that M^{r}· Starke's Vicinity affords him much better Helps to judge of this than can be now obtain'd here. In consequence of which Opinion the President wrote to M^{r}· Starke to the foregoing effect.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

Monday the 21st· THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R} GOV^{R}· PRESID^{T}·
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the Country & Military Correspondence, containing as follows.

The King of Tanjour vindicates his late Behaviour by saying that the only Reason which prevented him from joining the Nabob was the fear of having his Country laid waste by Moraree and the French before the Harvest was got in and that being done it would take him up a Month to collect the Revenues, after which he intended to have acted more to our Satisfaction, but in the Interim the Nabob's March with the Army through his Territories so enrag'd Moraree that he has ravag'd and laid waste his Country with Fire & Sword whereby he has sustain'd a Loss which he computes at ten Lacks, however relying on our Protection and the Nabobs & Major Lawrence's Request he order'd an Army to join them which has made the Mysore People, Moraree & the French his bitter Enemies and as his late Losses by the Plunder of his Country put it out of his Power to maintain his Army he desires we will assist him with Men & Money as we do the Nabob, without which he is not able to protect his Country against Invaders.

Kisnagee Punt our Vakeel to Balazarow writes that the many Difficulties he has met with on the Roads by reason of the Troubles in every Part of the Country has retarded him so much that he has not been able to reach Balazarow's Army but that he was got as far as Adony which is within five or six Stages of him & hop'd soon to arrive there, he says that at Adoney he met with Balazarow's Vakeel who inform'd him that Salabat Jung had wrote to his Master that he was inclin'd to confer the Government of the Carnateck Country on Murtaz Alley Cawn Phousdar of Veloor but that Balazarow disapprov'd it & recommended Mahomed Alley Cawn as the fittest

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

Person. That the Vakeel further inform'd him the Mysore King had offer'd his Master a Caroat of Rupees to obtain him the Fort of Trichenopoly which he rejected Kisnajee Punt adds that Balazarow has levied large Sums of Money and ruin'd the Country to a very great Degree through which he has pass'd, and having settled Affairs at Mysore is returning back.

The Phousdar of Chellumbrum advises that a Detachment of French & Seapoys with Artillery having surrounded the Fort, he oppos'd them with what Forces he could muster but that notwithstanding they got Possession of a Mosque and are endeavouring to reduce Chellumbrum, he therefore desires the Deputy Governour of Fort S^{t}· David or the Chief of Devecotah may be order'd to send a Reinforcement to his Relief.

From the President to Major Lawrence

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^{r}·

Sir Fort S^{t}· George 15th· May 1753.

Since I wrote you under date the 11th· Instant I have receiv'd yours of the 5th· The Vackeel has just now given me Copies of Letters wrote by 45, 46, 47 (the Mysore King & Moraree) to 51, 52, 43 (the King of Tanjour) wherein the former mentions what you wrote me and the latter tells him there is an underhand Correspondence between 61. 62. 63 (the English & French) he desires my Sentiments which is 81. 61. 62 (to join the English) and that he may at the same time act the Friendly Part.

I don't think 69. 61. 65 (the English) will confide in 51, 52, 53 (the King of Tanjour) but will make use of him to serve his Purposes.

We shall endeavour to provide for 72. 73. 71. (want of Money) the sooner a certain Affair is finish'd, the better.

Colonel Scott is coming out Engineer General of all the Settlements, though Bengal where he is to proceed on the same Ship is what he is particularly design'd for.

Two Train Companies to be form'd of 118 each, Officers included

One Captain of Train & two Lieutenants coming
M^{r}· Brohier appointed Second Captain
Three Captains of Infantry and one Ensign
Recruits on all the Ships & Coffreys.

I shall be glad to hear of your speedy Success & with Compliments to the Gentlemen in Camp am

Your most Obedient Servant
Thomas Saunders

P.S. Swiss 150.

Two Letters from Major Lawrence viz^{t}·

Sir

As the Weather was bad and we had no Cover I continued our March yesterday from Trickatapully & arriv'd here last Night, the Enemy made a Shew of attacking our Rear but two or three Shot sent them packing notwithstanding it rain'd very heavily & the large Quantity of Baggage under our Convoy.

I have desir'd the Nabob to order all the Polygars to send in Provisions and as to other Affairs I will acquaint you soon. I have settled a Plan & shall proceed with all Expedition if the Rajah will not hearken to Reason; The Nabob writ to him this Morning and is expecting his Answer however that shall not retard us. 100. 61. 106.

——FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.——

102 & 70, 71, 72 (want of Men & Money is a sad Article. Moraree is not arriv'd but expected. I have receiv'd no late Intelligence from S$^{t.}$ David. I am Sir

Your most humble & most
Obedient Servant
S. LAWRENCE

Trichenopoly
8$^{th.}$ May 1753.

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ$^{R.}$

Sir

On the 8$^{th.}$ the day after my Arrival here I acquainted you that the Nabob had made some Proposals towards an Accommodation with the Raja but receiving no Answer on the 10$^{th.}$ at night we set out for Syringham Island and offer'd him Battle the next Morning, the Engagement chiefly with Field Pieces continued the whole day and after it we return'd to Trichenopoly, the Enemy's Loss as well in Horses and Men is said to be very great, which may induce him to be more peaceably inclin'd, the Nabob is so much of this Opinion that he has already sent him a second Letter and if that fails of Success, we shall immediately make another Attempt upon Syringham, Three French Officers, about one hundred Men, one thousand Seapoys and five hundred Horse join'd the Raja some days ago. I am in great Expectation of Answers to my Letters from Chellumbrum and Additure. I am Sir

Your most humble
& most Obedient
Serv̄
STRINGER LAWRENCE

Trichenopoly
12th May 1753.

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ$^{R.}$

The Board having consider'd whether any and what further Directions are proper to be given Major Lawrence are of Opinion that if any thing can be effected by Treaty with the Dalloway it will be most adviseable to bring them to the Point as soon as possible but if he will not come to Terms that a good Store of Provisions & Necessaries be thrown into Trichenopoly and that the Army return as expeditiously as may be as the French with the Reinforcements they daily expect to arrive will soon be in a Condition to bring a considerable Force into the Field and not only very much distress the Country about S$^{t.}$ David but greatly interrupt if not totally cut off the Communication between that Place and our Army which may be of dangerous Consequence, especially as by the King of Tanjour's Letter 'tis very evident nothing can be expected from him.

The following General Letter from M$^{r.}$ Starke is also read viz$^{t.}$

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ$^{R.}$ PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR
&C$^{A.}$ COUNCIL OF FORT S$^{T.}$ GEORGE.

Honble Sir & Sirs

The Letter which I have receiv'd from you desiring I would leave this Garrison entrusted to my Care at a Time when an Army of Enemies is our Neighbourhood and come to Madrass to join in your Councils obliges me to offer some Reflections on the State of our Affairs to your Consideration with the hopes of inclining you to think that my Presence as a Member of the Private Committee as well as Deputy Governour of the Fort is more immediately requir'd here than in any other Place whatever.

——FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.——

My Meaning is certainly misunderstood when you observe that " I am desirous to avoid being concern'd in the Management of Country Affairs." I have long consider'd that we are all Fellow Labourers in one Common Cause amongst whom Unanimity & Friendship ought to subsist in the highest Degree, so that in leaving the whole to You my View was to facilitate Matters, to remove Difficulties, to husband Time, to give you a Proof of the Confidence I repos'd in You, not to decline my Advice or Assistance whenever either You or I saw there was a Necessity for it, for both by Inclination & Duty I shall ever esteem it my greatest Happiness to devote myself to the Service of our Honble Masters.

The Observation I made that You are most capable of settling the Differences amongst the Nabob's late Allies, now Enemies, is certainly just as you have had the General Management, but a recent Proof offers that I was resolv'd to go hand in hand with You; I sign'd the Address to Messrs. Lawrence and Palk without Hesitation & so I will every thing else that appears to be calculated for promoting the Publick Good.

I come now to speak of the Council of Three which was appointed by our Honble Masters that their Affairs might be conducted with greater Privacy and here I am charm'd with their excellent Disposition in contriving that their Commander in Chief should always make one as they knew the Governour of the Coast would reside at Madrass, the second at Fort St. David. In his Majesty's Council no Board was ever known to proceed on Business but when the Treasurer & General were present that the latter might propose his Plan of Military Transactions, the other declare the Strength of the Finances. As I am now situated Major Lawrence has frequent Opportunities of a Personal Interview with me which is always the best and seems to answer every End design'd but if I am remov'd from him in this terrible Time of Trouble & Disorder what Complaints will he not make of Advantages lost for want of a proper Person to consult with? while on the other Hand I don't see how Mr. Saunders and I can carry on the War without him as I declare my Ignorance in Military Affairs and can't pretend to give my Opinion on those Heads 'till I have heard what he has to say.

Another Circumstance (which I mention with a real Grief) still pleads more strongly that one of the Council of Three should be near the Army, I mean the unhappy Difference that has long subsisted between the President and the Commander in Chief. We have too many Jealousies amongst us already, why should we seek to increase them? For these last eight Months all my Thoughts have been employed on the Means how to conciliate Matters and when I found it was impossible to do that effectually I have done as well as I could that our Honourable Masters might not suffer; This is the Reason Gentlemen why things have not been carried on in so regular a Manner as one could wish but if you will please to listen to what I now propose, I doubt not of removing all Difficulties for the future. I need not tell you that Major Lawrence is dissatisfy'd and that very little real Service can be expected from one in his Circumstances, You declare that 'tis extremely necessary that a Majority of the Private Committee be with You for a short time. Invite him then to Madras and don't part with him 'till every thing that is past be buried in Oblivion. Form a Plan while he is present to give his Advice and Consent and I'll be answerable he will execute it to the best of his judgment with that honest Zeal for the Publick Service which distinguishes his Character. Captn. Dalton, Captain Campbell, Captain Gardner, Capt. Kilpatrick Officers of Experience may command the Army while he is with you, who had much better be absent from it for one month than present six, if he distrusts those under whose Orders he serves.

In regard to myself, the Enemy are now besieging Chellumbrum & ravaging the Country to the very Bound Hedge; several of our Officers & Soldiers are Prisoners in Pondicherry, the Seat of the War is in this Neighbourhood, all these Circumstances afford Business of the utmost Consequence that cannot be transacted by Mr. Cooke and the Council, but ought to come before one of the Private Committee. Let me add that to leave my Charge at a Time when an Enemy is in a Manner at the Gate

——FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.——

would shock me extremely. I hope Gentlemen you will take all I have said into your serious Consideration and allow that the Interest of our Honble Masters requires that I should stay where I am at least 'till Affairs are in a more fix'd Condition.

I shall always be ready to declare my Assent or Dissent in direct Terms to any Point propos'd which may be done by Letter as well as otherwise & the Publick Good commands us to put an End to all Dissentions & be of one mind, that We act with Spirit, Unanimity & Resolution & no longer waver in Opinion which must be attended with the greatest Danger. Let us blot out the Remembrance of all past Injuries & love one another and I don't fear but we shall still get the better of those common Disturbers of Mankind who are seeking our Ruin.

As an Opportunity for going by Sea to Madrass does not offer directly I must beg that you will favour me with a Reply to this Address. I am with great Respect.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Fort S$^{t.}$ David — Your most Obedient humble Servant.

18th May 1753. — RICH$^{D.}$ STARKE.

The Board being unanimously of Opinion that the Reasons M^{r} Starke offers against coming up hither are not to the Point, but on the contrary the absolute Necessity of his Presence here for a short time being evident as more may be settled in one Consultation than a Month's Correspondence; It is Agreed that he be again order'd to take the Opportunity of the first Sea Conveyance to come hither, leaving the Charge of Fort S$^{t.}$ David to M$^{r.}$ Cooke &c$^{a.}$ Council and a Letter is now wrote & sign'd as follows.

To RICHARD STARKE Esq$^{R.}$

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 18$^{th.}$ in Answer to ours of the 13$^{th.}$ Instant and as We are still of Opinion for the Reasons we mention'd therein that your Presence is absolutely necessary here, we direct that you make use of the first Opportunity by Sea of coming hither leaving as we before order'd the Charge of the Garrison and Management of our Honble Masters Affairs to M$^{r.}$ Thomas Cooke &c$^{a.}$ Council whom we have directed to act therein in the same manner as if you was present. We are

Sir

Fort S$^{t.}$ George — Your most Obedient Servants

21$^{st.}$ May 1753.

THO$^{S.}$ SAUNDERS
CHA$^{S.}$ BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A$^{R.}$ WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

A Letter from Captain Schaub at Pondicherry to the President being also read wherein he says that M$^{r.}$ Dupliex has desir'd him to lay before the President a Proposal for the Exchange of the English Officers and a hundred Men lately taken against French Officers of an equal Rank and the like Number of private Men.

The Board are of Opinion that as we are not Principals we ought not to appear in this Affair, but that if it be judg'd proper to accept or reject the Proposal it must be the Nabob's Act and the President is desir'd to acquaint Major Lawrence herewith and desire his Opinion.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

The President acquaints the Board that as the Enemy will probably in a short Time have a considerable Force in the Field he is apprehensive they may make some Attempt upon Changleput or Arcot should our Army continue any considerable Time employed in settling Matters with the Mysore Daloway and that as those Places are in want of some little Repairs he thinks it will be proper we should take upon us to see it done & charge the Expence to the Nabob's Account as it is to no Purpose to apply to his People in which the Board acquiesce.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot having been order'd in on account of an ill State of Health & Captain Benjamin Pigou appointed to that Command he set out the 17th. Instant with Orders on his Arrival to take an exact Account of the Military Stores &c^a. to see that there be always two Months Provisions in Garrison at least and on no Account to send out small Parties or run any Risques as the Security of the Fort is the Principal Thing to be regarded and on all Occasions to be mindful that We act as Allies and not as Principals.

The like Instructions were also sent to Lieut^t. Grenville on whom the Command of Changleput has been lately conferr'd in the Room of Lieutenant Innis recall'd on account of his Health.

Which the Board approve.

THO^s. SAUNDERS
CHA^s. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^R. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^s. BOURCHIER

In Consequence of the Resolutions of last Consultation the President this day 22d.
wrote to Major Lawrence as follows

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R.

Sir Fort S^t. George 22^d. May 1753.

My last to You was the 15th. Instant since which I have been favour'd with yours of the 8th. & 12th. I am glad to hear of your Success ; I should think Syringam could not have in it any Quantity of Stores but yet the Daloway may easily escape.

I have not heard from the Nabob but continue to think if a Reconciliation can be brought about and the Moratta drawn off it will be the best Step that can be taken, the greater his Distress or our Success the more advantagious Terms may be expected but at worst he would be satisfied with [*Lacuna in original*] (Trichenopoly) As you have full Powers I shall only heartily wish you Success, Should you be disappointed in this the Measures that appear to me the most suitable to the present Situation are to throw in a Store of Provisions with Expedition and return here.

Trivedy is taken and this is the only one particular of it that I can get tolerable Information of, Chellumbrum is besieg'd and if not reliev'd by M^r. Starke must fall. As I have no Returns of the Strength of S^t. David I don't know whether he is able to effect it, the Loss of this Place will hurt our Communication greatly, which as the Major Part of our Force is at such a Distance requires our Consideration.

The Vakeel has not been able to reach Balazarow's Camp who raises contributions every where & is returning.

I have receiv'd a Letter from the King of Tanjour I don't think 51. 81. 61.

Captain Schaub writes me that M^r. Dupliex will exchange the Officer and 100 Men. As we are not Principals I have wrote M^r. Starke we can only apply to the Nabob, which You will please to do ; 'tis a Question whether the Nabob may not

reasonably think that one hundred Men with an Officer added to the Strength of the Enemy already in the Province may not be of greater Disservice to him as those deliver'd in Exchange will not compleat a Force of any great Signification.

Since you left us several little Ill Successes have happen'd and I don't think Affairs are transacted so regularly at S^{t}. David as I wish. M^{r}. Starke declines acting in some Things and questions whether he has Power to act in others, the other day he wrote to know whether he should relieve Chellumbrum closely besieg'd, though he has discretional Power to act upon Emergency and if he loses so much Time as to wait for an Answer, it's very probable the Place is gone as more can be said & settled in an hour than wrote in a Month, we have desir'd him to come here for a few days as he may return on the Europe Ship.

I believe you may draw upon us from Tanjour I will also endeavour to get Bills here.

The French have as yet only one Ship, 'Tis said they have a Number of Women, Boys & Girls coming out.

I have receiv'd a Letter from M^{r}. Hunter dated the 10th. April, every thing was well. Please to advise me if I shall send the Train and other Officers that may arrive if I don't hear from you I shall do it. I am

Sir Your most Obedient Servant

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS

23rd. The President receiv'd from M^{r}. Starke Copy of a Letter from the Marquiss Dupliex to Captain Schaub to the following Effect that he shall be glad of M^{r}. Pascauds Release and waits for the necessary Paper for Captain Maskelyne. That he has wrote to Mahomed Ally Cawn about the Exchange of Prisoners and don't doubt but that it is in M^{r}. Saunders's Power to hasten it and if he will also obtain the Discharge of all the Prisoners He (Dupliex) will then release him (Schaub) & his Company whom he never consider'd as Prisoners but only as Hostages. That M^{r}. Pascaud having been exchang'd for Captain Maskelyne at the Desire of the Nabob of Veloor, Salabat Jung's Deputy in this Province, M^{r}. Chase may be exchang'd for M^{r}. Law &c. &c. &c.

Which having been communicated to the Gentlemen of Council, the President with their Concurrence wrote to Major Lawrence as follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^{R}.

Sir Fort S^{t}. George 23 May 1753.

This is to enclose Copy of a Letterfrom Mon^{s} Dupliex to Captain Schaub, on which I must observe.

I think he might as well have made his Proposal to me which would have been attended with as little Trouble as negotiating by means of Captain Schaub.

When Cap^{t}. Maskelyne was offer'd in Exchange for Mons^{r}. Pascaud it was refus'd, what makes him now so ready.

When Captain Schaub and his Company who were not taken in the field but seiz'd contrary to Treaty with a regular Passport can be reckon'd on the same footing as the others.

The Marquiss Dupliex says it is unlawful to keep Prisoners at Pondicherry, he has told us we could not do it yet he does it in Fact though he colours it with a specious Pretence.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

I know nothing of Mr. Pascauds having been exchang'd for Mr. Maskelyne nor of the Phousdar of Veloor's being Salabat Jung's Deputy, I have heard he was proclaim'd Nabob of the Province in Pondicherry.

Several other Exchanges are mention'd, whether the Nabob will think it for his Interest to let the Prisoners remain as they are, as such a Number of Officers & Men added to their present Force will make a considerable Army in these Parts I must wait to hear from him.

If you should succeed in your Negotiations whether the Nabob could treat with the French also, though I doubt it, please to give me your Opinion, my Accounts are extremely imperfect from St. David, I have order'd them to be very particular in advising you of what occurs, a Report prevails here that the second Subidar will go to Arcot.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

The President also wrote to Captain Schaub to acquaint the Marquiss Dupliex that he (the President) has no Authority over the Prisoners being only an Auxiliary, as such he will with Pleasure use his Interest and has wrote to the Nabob on the Subject.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 28th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R. Gov^R. Pres^DT.
RICHARD STARKE CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH CHARLES BOURCHIER

Richard Starke Esq^r. who arriv'd here yesterday having taken his seat, the President acquainted the Board that agreeable to the Resolution of Consultation of the 30th. March 1752 he had carried on the French Camp & Country Correspondence by communicating to the Board the several Letters and Advices receiv'd & laying before them such as were sent for their Approbation, but that he found it attended with great Inconvenience and Perplexity which he offer'd as a Matter requiring their mature Consideration, he observ'd that the Method in which Affairs have been constantly transacted is that the Private Committee have conducted Things of a secret Nature 'till they were ripe for Execution which were then laid before the Board for their Concurrence and that the General Opinion was the Plan which has been communicated to the Absent Members and seems to meet with Major Lawrence's Approbation as he always when time admits desires Orders from the Governour & Council, that upon Emergencies Mr. Starke at Fort St. David and Mr. Lawrence in Camp had a discretional Power to act as was judg'd for the Good of the Service and in regard to Military Operations Mr. Lawrence's Opinion is particularly necessary, that as the Scene of Action has been to the Southward all Letters to and from Mr. Lawrence & Captain Dalton consisting of the several Occurrences have pass'd through Mr. Starke's Hands not only as one of the private Committee but as a Member of the Board. That this Method seem'd tolerably regular but still he thought it wanted an Amendment in the following Particulars, that the Board have always been consulted, their Opinions communicated to Mr. Starke and Mr. Lawrence wherein he has concurr'd, which then pass'd into a general one, and yet Mr. Starke in the 3d. Paragraph of his Letter of the 18th. Instant seems to intimate the Board have the whole Management and in another Paragraph insinuates that the Committee of three are invested with it. This Inconsistence the President propos'd to be settled and if our Honble Masters Orders may in any Respect admit of a dubious Sense he desired it might be reconcil'd with the greatest Harmony.

——FOTS ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.——

He further added that as the several Occurrences are communicated to the Absent Members, they should on Receipt mention their Approbation or assign the Reason for their Nonconcurrence, and that upon any Advices they may receive they give their Sentiments and in cases of Emergency when time will not admit they don't as in the late Case of Chellumbrum wait for Orders but act as the Situation of Affairs require which the Board think is highly necessary.

Our Honble Masters Commands relating to the Committee of Three being then call'd for it was observ'd that the 43$^{d.}$ Paragraph of the General Letter by the Durrington dated 23$^{d.}$ August 1751 does seem in the first part of it to grant an Independent Power to the Committee to transact Affairs with the Country Government &c$^{a.}$ but this in the latter part is restrain'd by laying them under a Necessity of applying to the Council on all Occasions where any of the Company's Treasure or Cash is to be disburs'd and very few if any Military Operations can be undertaken without it, so that in reality most Cases must in the End come before the Council as is very fully evinc'd in the late March of the Army to Trichenopoly, had the Council refus'd to advance the necessary Moneys the Army could not have stirr'd. Where Secrecy is necessary many Advantages may attend a Power to such a Committee to conduct a particular Enterprize or Negotiation, but 'tis evident the Company's Intention in directing such an Application to the Council is that they should ultimately judge of and assent to or disapprove the Measures propos'd which is necessarily implied in the Power of granting or refusing Money, and this is further explain'd in the 75$^{th.}$ Paragraph of the same Letter where it is said "When any Military Designs "and Operations are under the Consideration of the Council he (Major Lawrence) is to "lay before them such Plans & Explanations thereof as may enable them to give "proper Orders for the more effectual carrying them into Execution"—Again "He is "to be govern'd by such Orders as he has or shall receive in writing from the Court "of Directors for the time being or from You the President & Council" &c$^{a.}$—and further—"He is to communicate to the President & Council whatever may occur" &c$^{a.}$ in all which not the least mention is made of the Committee whose suppos'd Independent Power is thereby totally absorb'd in the General one given to the President & Council. To reconcile this seeming Contradiction, the Board having spent some time in deliberation are upon the whole unanimously of Opinion that the most obvious & natural Construction of the above recited Paragraphs is that the Committee of Three or any two of them have a Power to transact such Affairs of Country Government &c^{a} where no Money is to be disburs'd though it does not from thence follow that they are oblig'd to exert that Power to it's utmost Extent, but on the contrary are at Liberty when they or either of them shall judge proper to bring any Matter whatever before the Council with whom the said Power in such Case is lodg'd, as it is likewise in all Affairs where the Application of Moneys is necessary, and there are very few Cases where the Company's Cash is not immediately or consequentially to be disburs'd. It is therefore Agreed the Committee of three or either of them shall have full Power to give the necessary Directions on any such sudden & emergent Occasions as will not allow Time to take the Opinion of the Council, all which Transactions are however to be communicated to the Council as soon as may be afterwards and they are also empower'd jointly to concert Measures or separately (as the Case may happen to fall under the immediate Inspection of either of them) to give Directions for the more effectually carrying into Execution any particular Resolution of Council, but that whenever an Alteration is propos'd to be made in any particular or General Plan of Operations or any new Expedition intended to be undertaken, the Sanction of the Council shall be first obtain'd, this however is not to be understood to extend to any such Dispositions in the Field as the Motions of the Enemy or any unforeseen Incidents may render immediately necessary in which Case the Commander in Chief of the Forces must always have a Discretionary Power With Respect to the Correspondence with the Camp & Garrisons the Pres$^{dt.}$ is hereby authoriz'd as before to conduct that Branch, the Letters intended to be sent being previously communicated to the several Members of the Council for their Perusal.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

This Point being determin'd the President observ'd that there were several other Particulars in Mr. Starke's Letter of the * 8th. & † 18th. Instant, part regarding the general Management & part his (the President's) Conduct in particular that needed some Lights, he then proceeded to point out the Passages hinted at, and desir'd in the first Place Mr. Starke would explain this Paragraph in his Letter of the 8th viz^t. " Major Lawrence and I have only meddled in those Particulars that fell " under our Inspection," to which Mr. Starke reply'd his meaning was that the Siege of Changleput and our Transactions with Balazarow had not been communicated to him. The Camp Letter Book being thereupon produc'd & several Passages read it appear'd that Major Lawrence had from time to time been acquainted with what occurr'd relating to the Expedition against Saudet Bander, Changleput &c^a. and also with such Intelligence as was procurable concerning Balazarow & though it be but imperfect twas however the best Information that could be given him at that Time which having pass'd through Mr. Starke's Hands he had an Opportunity of knowing as much as if it had been particularly address'd to him and on perusal of those Letters he declar'd his Approbation of the Measures that have been taken. That part of his Letter of the 18th. Instant being then read where he speaks of the Difference between the President & Major Lawrence and of Jealousies amongst us, The President declar'd to the Board that he knew of none; That indeed a Difference of Opinion between the Council & Major Lawrence had formerly occasion'd some Disputes and Disgust which in the General Letter to Major Lawrence of the 11th. December and his Reply of the 31st. of the same Month appear to be buried in Oblivion, but even if they were not he did not apprehend that he ought singly to stand chargeable with any Consequences that might thence ensue as those Altercations arose upon the Subject of General Deliberations of Council and not from his particular Conduct as Mr. Starke's Letter implies he therefore desir'd that for his Justification and the Satisfaction of the Board Mr. Starke would declare whether he knew of any & what other Jealousies or Difference to which he reply'd—" that He had often heard " the Major complain of being slighted particularly in the Instance of being oblig'd " to wait a considerable Time while the Nabob's Vakeel was with the President," but at the same time He (Mr. Starke) declar'd that he thought this ought not to be look'd upon in that Light. He further said—" the Major also complain'd that his Recommendation of Officers was not accepted "—on which it was observ'd that this never happen'd but in the case of Mr. Repington whose Promotion in Prejudice to Officers of Superiour Rank would have been directly repugnant to the Military Regulations and the Company's Orders and Mr. Starke being desir'd to give his Opinion whether a Recommendation under such Circumstances should be admitted, declared he thought it might in cases of particular Merit, but allow'd that it would have been a very great Hardship upon Mr. Cooper and several other Officers who had behav'd very well had Mr. Repington been put over them, he further added—" that he had heard the Major say he did not think himself well us'd when the Army was " encamp'd at Trivendupuram in not receiving positive Orders from the Board after " he had declar'd he could not act without " but being told that such Orders were sent and unluckily carried into Pondicherry, of which the Major was inform'd in a subsequent Letter & Duplicates of the former one sent him Mr. Starke declar'd he thought there was no further Cause of Disgust on that account yet he was of Opinion the Major was dissatisfied & that as mention'd in his Letter the only way to reconcile all Differences would be to send for him to the Presidency, but the rest of the Board declar'd they were of Opinion that as the Occasion of our Meeting was in regard to Mr. Starke's Letters which render'd it necessary to put the Method of carrying on the Company's Affairs upon a firm Footing; That as nothing had lately happen'd to cause any fresh Disgust and that as Major Lawrence's Name had not been mention'd they saw no Necessity for calling him up, for besides that it may serve to bring again upon the Carpet many things which seem to be forgotten, his Presence with our Forces is much more necessary at this time, especially when a Treaty is on foot with the Dalleway and the Safety of Trichenopoly depends on the Transactions of the Army, and that they thought it not well judg'd in Mr. Starke to introduce the

* entd. in Consn. 11 Inst.
† Do. 21 Do.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, MAY 1753.*——

Subject of the Differences with Major Lawrence as it tended rather to foment than conciliate them and had no Manner of Connection with the Point in question, to which Mr. Starke reply'd that it was the farthest of any thing from his Intentions to promote Discord and that his sole Motive was to bring about a perfect Harmony and Unanimity.

The President lays before the Board the Country & Camp Correspondence.

Amongst the Country Letters the only one containing any thing new is from Kisnajee Punt our Vakeel to Balazarow, adviseing that he reach'd the Camp the 21st. April and waited on Balazarow who receiv'd him kindly and afterwards sent for him twice into the Private Divan to question him of Affairs in these Parts & spoke of the English here and at Bombay in Terms of great Friendship and declar'd that his Intentions were to have come into the Carnateck Country, but his Army being fatigu'd and the Monsoon approaching oblig'd him to decline it at present however he stedfastly purpos'd coming into these Parts after the Monsoon, that he therefore recommended to the English to continue their Assistance to Mahomed Ally and to be patient a few months longer when he would certainly come & settle every thing.

Major Lawrence writes the President as follows.

Sir Camp 15th. May 1753.

The 12th. I advis'd you of my Return from Syringam Island where I intended to have made a longer Stay and I have Reason to believe with Success but the Nabob neglecting to take Provisions for his People put it out of my Power I encamp'd on the Plain this Morning to open a Communication with the Country for Provisions must be had at any Rate and I wish this Method may be effectual; 49, 52, 53 (the Nabob) is in 69, 71, 73 (want of Money) and 41, 43, 45 (Trichenopoly) is full of 105, 102, 107 (Distress) no Confidence to be plac'd in 51, 59, 60 (the King of Tanjore) should 47, 63, 68, 43 (Moraree and the French march to Trichenopoly) it is not impossible but 45, 48, 51, 80, 81, 82 (the King of Tanjour may join) only 43, 41, 45 (Trichenopoly) will please the old Lady 45, 46, 48 (the King of Mysore) and as Affairs are now she may think it no great Compliment 105, 106, 113, 118 (Officers, Soldiers European & Topass, Seapoys) by 67, 68, 69, 102, 92 &ca (distress and making an Attempt) is unaccountably reduc'd. I have not heard from you lately. Mr. Starke inform'd me of what pass'd at Trividy the 1st.

I am

Sir

Your most humble & most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence.

Mr. Cooke at Fort St. David writes that by Letters from Mr. Dawson at DeveCotah he is inform'd Serjeant Haycock (who commanded in Chellumbrum) with his Detachment had deserted that Fort leaving the Phousdar in Possession of it, the Reason for which Proceeding is not mention'd but it is probable the Defence of the Place appear'd impracticable, that the Reinforcement sent to his Assistance from Devecotah had neither join'd him nor were return'd and desiring our Direction whether in case nothing further can be undertaken for the Defence of Chellumbrum we would have the Party order'd up to St. David or continue at Devecotah.

The Board are of Opinion that as there is no immediate Necessity for the Detachment to return to St. David, it had better continue for some time at Devecotah as that Place is but very barely Garrison'd and they may with great Ease be transported by Sea to St. David whenever Occasion may require.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

* The Marquiss Dupliex's Proposal for an Exchange of Prisoners being consider'd the Board are of Opinion that as Captain Schaub and his Company were seiz'd contrary to Treaty and ought not therefore to be consider'd as Prisoners they cannot be accepted in Exchange for Prisoners taken in the Field by the Nabob in open and Declared War as the consenting to such an Exchange would imply a tacit Acknowledgment that Mr. Dupliex has a right to detain them.

* *Vide* Extract of Dupliex's Letter to Schaub, enter'd the 23d. Inst. herein before.

As to Captain Maskelyne's Exchange for Captain Pascaud the Board readily agree that Application be made to the Nabob on this head if the Marquiss Dupliex will consent in his own Name, but not in the Name of the Phousdar of Veloor whom he stiles Salabat Jung's Deputy in this Province as that would carry with it a Confession of his Suppos'd Authority and consequently that Mahomed Ally is an Invader.

The Board are also of Opinion that an Exchange of the other Prisoners will at this Time be of greater Advantage to the Enemy than to us as such an Addition to their present Strength in the Country about St. David will enable them to undertake much more than they can otherwise attempt whilst the Force we shall gain by the Exchange will be insufficient to face them in the Field, however 'tis Agreed that no determinate Answer be given until Major Lawrence's Opinion be receiv'd to whom the President has wrote on the Subject.

As Major Lawrence mentions the want of Money for the use of the Army, tis Agreed to make him a Remittance of eight or ten thousand Pagodas or more by Bills on Tanjour if they can be procur'd.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present.* Monday the 4th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR. GOVR. PRESIDT.
RICHARD STARKE — CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY — ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH — CHARLES BOURCHIER

The Country and Camp Correspondence being produc'd & read is to the following Effect vizt.

The King of Tanjour writes that the Nabob having acquainted him of his Desire to accommodate Matters with the Dalloway he sent a Person to the latter to learn his Intention & finds that his Inclinations for Peace vary as the Circumstances of his Affairs appear more or less prosperous, whence as well as his fix'd Purpose of having Trichenopoly or the Money it has cost him it may be concluded that Matters are not likely to be finish'd any other way than by fighting it out. That his Forces having join'd the Nabob has expos'd his Country to ruin, wherefore he desires we will assist him with Men & protect his Territories and that an entire Confidence may be repos'd in his Firmness & Friendship In a Letter to his Vakeel here after repeating the Danger his Country is expos'd to he directs him to represent it properly to the Governour and procure a Letter from him promising his Assistance & Protection to the Tanjour Country and that he will be faithful to his Engagements, he also desires that a Gun and a Gold Watch may be sent him.

A Letter from the Vakeel in Salabat Jung's Camp advises that several Presents had been made Monsr Goupie the French Commanding Officer there for Mr. Dupliex and his Family on occasion of confering the Government of the Arcot Country on him but that notwithstanding this Salabat Jung's Affairs continue in so unsettled a Condition that no Dependence is to be plac'd on any thing transacted in his Camp.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*———

That Salabat Jung was much distress'd for Money and it was imagin'd he would proceed to Aurungabad agreeable to his Duan's Advice but that the French declar'd against it as a sickly Place where they had lost a hundred Men and propos'd Golcondah.

Abdul Vahab Cawn encloses a Letter to him from the Killedar of Wondivash offering to submit to the Nabob and desiring that he will assist him in defending the Fort against the Enemy ; Abdul Vahab Cawn therefore requests that a Detachment of Europeans & Seapoys may be sent there to Garrison it.

Major Lawrence writes as follows.

Sir

I receiv'd your favour of the 4th. Instant the 18th. to which I cannot be particular in my Answer as the Conveyance is so liable to Accidents, a Letter of mine of the 15th. having been intercepted by the Carelessness of the Hircara & carried into Syringam, a Duplicate was dispatch'd a day or two after it which I hope will have better fortune.

This morning came inclos'd from Mr. Starke a Letter for the Nabob & one for the Daloway, mine was omitted. As the Contents were unknown to me I took the Liberty of opening the Letter that we may act in Concert and forwarded it to him with another from myself to the same Purport, whenever I receive an answer you shall be acquainted.

The Voluntiers I appointed the 13th. to do the Duty of Officers till your Pleasure shall be further known; in Rank Jean Baptiste D'Apcher, [*Lacuna in the original*] Percival, Thos. Rumbold, William Rumbold and I must desire that the Vacancies may be fill'd up ; The inclos'd is a Letter from Mr. Astruc Commanding at Syringam with my Answer.

I am Sir

Your most humble and

Trichinopoly 21st. May Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

P.S. 43, 102, 78 &ca. (Want of Money and distress in Trichinopoly). We hourly expect to hear what Success with 52, 53, 54, 55, 59, 60, 62 (Tondaman [*Lacuna in the original*]

Sir

I have receiv'd no Answer from the Daloway, in other Respects we are much in the same Situation as when I writ last, I hear that Fort St. David Hircaras are loitering on the Road. I have sent Messengers to hasten them.

I am

Sir

Trichinopoly
25th. May 1753.

Your most humble and
Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr.

The Purport of the Letter from Mr. Astruc to the Major mention'd in his Letter of the 21st. May is to desire his Interest with the Nabob to bring about the Exchange of Prisoners he propos'd by order of Mr. Dupliex to which the Major return'd for Answer that he could not on any Account interfere in the Affair.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

The President's Letters to Major Lawrence since last Consultation are as follows viz^{t}.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^{R}.

Sir Fort S^{t}. George 31 May 1753.

My last to you was the 23^{d}. since which I have receiv'd Copy of yours of the 15th. but not the Original, I imagine Letters may go and come safe as far as Devecotah and that the Interruption happens between that Place and Camp—Suppose you change the Hircars.

Inclos'd is a Bill of Exchange on Buckenjee's People for Pag^{s}. 10,000, I will get another as soon as possible and hope you will be able to draw on us.

From S^{t}. David I hear Chellumbrum is probably in the Enemy's Hands as Serjeant Haycock with his Command had left it & was gone to Devecotah.

A Letter from our Vakeel informs us that Balazarow continued his March from the Province.

Another from Salabat Jung's Camp advises that it was thought the Army would proceed to Aurungabad, Moñs. Goupie with most of the French were with Salabat Jung, Moñs Bussy with a few at Metchlepatam, it is said Salabat Jung has given a Saned for the Arcot Subahship to 38, 40, 44, 45, 87 (M^{r}. Dupliex).

55, 53, 51, 50, 79 (the King of Tanjour) writes he has 83, 81, 48, 49 (join'd) I am of Opinion 59, 60, 61, 62 (the English) will not trust to this, and the most they can expect is that he does not 81. 83. 63. 95 (join the French).

It's possible 73, 71, 84, 89 (want of Money) may be accounted for from Tanjour.

I hope the Affair wrote you about may succeed 59, 51, 48, 40 (the King of Tanjour) should partake.

The French have had a second Ship arriv'd with about a hundred Recruits.

I have not heard from 45, 49, 55, 59 (the Nabob) a considerable Time, it is said 47, 59, 63, 67 (the French) will in a few days 48, 68, 43, 48 (march to Trichenopoly) 57, 87, 96 (M^{r}. Starke will in a few days pay a Visit to 98, 88, 76 (Fort S^{t}. David).

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THO^{s}. SAUNDERS.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^{R}.

Sir Fort S^{t}. George 1st. June 1753.

Your Letter of the 21st. Ult^{o}. is come to hand also Duplicate of that of the 15th.

The Commissions for the Gentlemen you mention have been drawn out a considerable Time, I believe it's better not to send them, Captain Chase is dead.

I have not heard any thing further than what already wrote you concerning the Prisoners.

I now inclose Duplicate Bills for Pag^{s}. 10,000, by mistake of the Shroff the Bill sent you last night was only for 2,000 Pagodas, in a separate Cover came the three others for the remaining 8000. I have order'd Buckenjee's People to write to their Gomastahs that whatever Moneys they may pay you for Bills on us, we shall pay here. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THO^{s}. SAUNDERS

——FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.——

Mr. Cooke at Fort St. David writes that Serjeant Haycock (who commanded the Party at Chellumbrum but quitted that Place as mention'd in last Consultation) is since come in and says in his Justification that the Phousdar had made Terms with the Enemy for the Delivery of the Place, a chief Article in which was that he should remain in his Phousdarship and all usual Priviledges upon paying a certain Tribute to Nabob Dupliex, further Particulars he knew not but that Matters being thus settled, the Phousdar told him to hide himself and People, that he should let in the Enemy who were under Agreement to go out again Presently. On this the Serjeant thought it time to quit the Fort which he accordingly did, the Enemy immediately took Possession of it, the Truth of which Relation is in a great measure confirm'd by subsequent Accounts that the Phousdar had made great Rejoicings on the Occasion.

The President acquaints the Board that he is inform'd a Party of French & Seapoys with some Horse are ready to take the Field from Pondicherry but that he has not yet learn'd their Intention, however as 'tis possible they may be design'd against Arcot or Changleput he thinks it necessary to send immediate Intelligence to Captain Pigou at the former and Lieut. Grenville at the latter Place and, Letters are now read directing them to be on their Guard & in case of an Attack to be very cautious of making Sallies to avoid unnecessary Risques, to be frugal of Ammunition and to beware of Treachery by which more Places have been lost than by the Strength of the Assailants.

The Subject of the Letters receiv'd and the present Posture of Affairs being consider'd and debated the Board are of Opinion that from what the King of Tanjour writes it evidently appears there are no other Measures to be pursued with the Dalloway than those already resolv'd on; viz., to bring about an Accommodation by negotiation on the Terms wrote to Messrs. Lawrence & Palk the 11th. May, or if that can't be effected, to throw a good Store of Provisions into Trichenopoly and that the Army return to St. David, but principally to press the Accommodation which seems the more immediately necessary as by the Vakeel's Letter from Salabat Jung's Camp it appears the French Interest still prevails there and the Government of the Arcot Country said to be confer'd on Mr. Dupliex is a strong Confirmation of it, 'tis therefore to be fear'd not only that no Assistance can be had from that Quarter but that the Nabob may have a powerful Enemy in Salabat Jung should he heartily come into the French Measures which 'tis possible the Necessity of Affairs may oblige him to, and though Balazarow, should he return into this Province after the Monsoon and espouse the Nabob's Cause as he has promis'd to do, would certainly be capable of turning the Scale in his favour, yet no Dependence is to be plac'd on his Engagement as hitherto it appears his sole View is the Acquisition of Riches; These Circumstances consider'd it appears there is not the least probable Prospect of such Assistance from any Quarter as may enable the Nabob to overcome his present Difficulties, so that the whole Burthen of the War is likely to lye on the Company, the heavy Charges of which are already insupportable and to prevent it's becoming more so the Board are of Opinion that an Accommodation with the Dalloway is absolutely necessary.

With respect to the Killedar of Wondivash, and Abdul Vahab Cawn's Requst that a Garrison of Europeans may be sent there, the Board are of Opinion that the dividing our Forces into small Parties to defend the Country Forts will only be hazarding the Men as very few of those Places are capable of resisting a regular Attack whilst by such small Detachments the main Body of our Forces is so much weaken'd as to give the Enemy great Advantages It is therefore thought most adviseable not to comply with the Killedar's Proposal but that Abdul Vahab Cawn be desir'd to acquaint him that as soon as Affairs will admit he shall have a proper Force for his Protection.

As to the King of Tanjour's Assurances of Friendship & Firmness in the Nabobs Cause the Board are of Opinion little Confidence can be plac'd in them for though he has several times in his Letters said that he had join'd the Nabob yet the Advices

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*———

from Camp contradict it however it is thought adviseable to amuse him for a time with hopes that when the Recruits we expect from Europe this Season arrive, as many as can be possibly spar'd shall be sent for his Protection, as indeed it is no more than what by Treaty we are oblig'd to do and as a Mark of Friendship 'tis Agreed that a Fowling Piece and a Gold Watch be sent him as a Present.

Captain M^{c}·Eacharn of the Dragon to whom the King of Tavay made his Proposals for granting the English a Factory there being on his Return to that Place, 'tis Agreed that a Present be sent by him to the King of a Brass Field Piece and Carriage & that we write to him at the same time to assure him we accept with great Chearfulness the Offer he is pleas'd to make us of an exclusive Trade to his Country and would on our Parts readily comply with the Terms but that as this Country has been for a long time and still is involv'd in Troubles, we cannot readily procure the Cannon & Ammunition or spare the Men requir'd, but as soon as Peace is restor'd to these Parts we shall not fail to fulfill what is stipulated on our Side, in the mean time we desire he will permit our Colours to be hoisted there. This it is hop'd will be a Means of preventing the Dutch, who, it is said, have been endeavouring to get Footing there and indeed every other Nation from succeeding.

The President acquaints the Board that the King of Tanjour's Vakeel in Conversation with him had mention'd that his Master was very uneasy at the Escape of Hussan Addy Cawn, *alias* Shaik Hussen and intimated that it was imagin'd it must have been brought about by Corruption. As this is a very great Reflection and serves to depreciate us in the Opinion of the Country People, it is thought necessary that the strictest Scrutiny be made into this Affair and if any thing of this Sort should be discover'd that the Offenders be punish'd in an exemplary manner; The Minutes of a Court of Enquiry held at Fort S^{t}· David being thereupon perus'd, the Board are of Opinion that the Serjeants & Centinels of the Guard were guilty of great Remissness which leaves too much room to suspect that the King of Tanjour's Conjecture is not groundless more especially as the President acquaints the Board he had try'd the Experiment of having a man carried out in a Basket which is the Manner Shaik Hussan is said to have made his Escape and from the Difficulty that attended it (the Person that carried the Basket not being able to take it up himself) 'tis imagin'd if there had not been a Connivance, the Centry could not but have perceiv'd it. M^{r}· Starke is therefore desir'd at his Return to Fort S^{t}· David to make the strictest Enquiry that if possible the Offenders may be brought to condign Punishment.

The Board having consider'd the Advices in the General Letter from Fort S^{t}· David of the 31st· Ultimo, that a Party of the Enemy were gone towards Verdachilum with Views as it was apprehended against that Place, and having consulted several Officers who have been there in Regard to the Strength and Situation of the Place are of Opinion that the Gentlemen at Fort S^{t}· David have done Right in not sending a Reinforcement thither, as in the Present Condition it is very capable of resisting what Force the Enemy can bring against it, unless they should have heavy Cannon and in that case, as it would probably fall, the throwing in a Reinforcement would be but exposing them, the only thing therefore that can be done is to order the Serjeant Commanding there to defend the Place in case of an Attack to the utmost Extremity and if he should find it impossible to maintain it, and an Opportunity should offer of escaping with his Detachment to do so but not whilst there remain any hopes of holding out.

THO^{S}· SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}· BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}· WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{S}· BOURCHIER

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

Saturday the 9th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R. Gov^R. PRESID^T.

RICHARD STARKE	CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY	ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH	CHARLES BOURCHIER

General Letter from Mess^rs. Lawrence and Palk read as follows.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R.

PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &c^A. COUNCIL OF FORT S^T. GEORGE.

Hoñble Sir & Sirs

We are this day favour'd with your Letter of the 11^th Instant, we shall be glad to contribute our utmost Endeavours to forward your Directions, though we do not flatter ourselves with an immediate Success 41, 46, 45 (the Daloway) shew no Sort of Inclination to 59, 61, 62, 121 (the English & Major Lawrence) for fear we imagine of giving Offence to 62, 63, 64 (the French) 53, 49, 40 (the Nabob) abhor the Thoughts of 45, 46, 48 in 41, 43, 45 (giving up Trichenopoly to the Dalloway) but conclude still very sanguinely that 53, 52, 51 can do great Things perhaps on very little Foundation, however it is thought proper to wait the Result of this two or three days longer.

A small Step is made at 53, 54, 55, 59 Tondamon towards removing 102, 103, 104 (Distress) from 43, 45, 48 (Trichenopoly) which is surrounded by 69, 70, 71, (want of Money.

More Forces are said to be on their March and daily expected, their Arrival will cause a Diversion and make 49, 50, 61, 68, 87, 88 (the Nabob and the English march to Fort S^t. David) whose Junction is of very great Consequence.

We are with great Respect

Hoñble Sir & Sirs

Your very humble & most Obedient Servt^s.

Trichenopoly
26^th May 1753.

S. LAWRENCE
ROB^T. PALK

Camp Correspondence read

Major Lawrence writes the President as follows.

Sir

Your Letters of the 5^th, 9^th, 11^th & 15^th came in yesterday with another from the Governour & Council which was answer'd last Night.

I am glad Changleput & Arcot are so well provided, I have already explain'd to you the Nabob's Situation so far as I am able to judge, and all that you have recommended he shall be acquainted with, he shew'd me a long Letter which he declines sending on account of the Precariousness of the Conveyance.

I am afraid no Regard will be paid to the Injunctions of 143, 144, 145 (Balazarow) the Daloway I am told looks on him as a Friend, so does 53, 52, 51 (the King of Tanjour) his Scheme seems to be that which will lend most to his own Interest.

I agree that Expedition is highly necessary & nothing shall be wanting on my part but 53, 54, 55 (Tondaman) is very dilatory, though I have taken every Measure to hasten his March.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

The Arrival of Recruits is a lucky Incident, could those expected be landed at Fort S$^{t.}$ David, it would be more convenient, the Extract mention'd in yours of the 11th came not inclos'd.

By Monagee's being restor'd to his Command I am in hopes the Politicks in the Tanjour Court have taken a better Turn, 61, 69, 65 (the English) does not confide in 51, 52, 53 (the King of Tanjour) no otherwise than as it serves his own Purposes 41, 46, 45 (the King of Mysore) does not converse with 121, 111, 131 (Major Lawrence) which disappoints the Intention of the 11th, the main Point with 49, 61, 62 (the English at present is to remove 102, 40, 104 (Distress) from his Alliance with 43, 38, 41 (Trichenopoly; when this is done we shall gain time for the rest.

The Company have made an extraordinary good Choice in Colonel Scott for he is allow'd to be a Man of great Merit, & Worth. If I should be out of the way at his Landing; I beg the favour of you to make him my Compliments. I am

Sir

Trichenopoly — Your most obedient humble Servant

27th May 1753. — S. LAWRENCE

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ$^{R.}$

M$^{r.}$ Cooke at Fort S$^{t.}$ David advises that the Party of the Enemy who 'twas imagin'd were intended for Verdachilum came back again and after being join'd by an additional Force of Horse and Foot & six or seven Guns are return'd there. He also advises that another Detachment of the Enemy are march'd from Pondicherry to Belpore where tis said they wait to be join'd by Shaik Hussen & Moraree and by all the Intelligence he can collect, which he thinks may be credited, it seems pretty certain that they intend to direct their March towards Arcot.

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes that the Glacis which was begun some time ago is now totally at a Stand and in it's present Condition should the Enemy besiege the Place, great Part of it would entirely cover them from the Fire of the Fort and many Houses are yet remaining within Gun Shott of the Walls, that he had represented this to the Nabob who very frankly reply'd he had not Money to proceed but at the same time said he was going to send a Part of his Force to Tripoty to recover that Country from Mahmud Camaul who took Possession of it about six Weeks ago and if they succeeded he then should have a sufficient Supply he adds that in regard to Provisions, the Principal Articles are laid in, and the whole will be compleated in a few days.

Lieutenant Greenville at Changleput writes that he has at last prevail'd with the Nabob's Amuldar to lay in a Quantity of Paddy, thirteen hundred Mercals have already been brought in and he is in Expectation of double that Quantity in a few days, that the Glacis will be finish'd in about ten days, the whole Length of which is upwards of two hundred & twenty Yards.

Since last Consultation the President wrote Major Lawrence as follows viz$^{t.}$

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ$^{R.}$

Sir — Fort S$^{t.}$ George 5th June 1753.

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 25$^{th.}$

As Chellumbrum and Trividy are in the hands of the Enemy and possibly Verdachilum may be at the same time the Rivers may probably be swell'd with the Rains, I am apprehensive these several Circumstances will render it difficult, nay I may say impossible to send any Stores.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*———

Hussen Addy Cawn with Europeans, Sepoys and Horse provided with a Train, some Mortars, Shells and Ammunition is encamp'd out of Pondicherry, I have desir'd Mr. Cooke to inform you of the Motions he may make

4, 8, 7, 33, 34 35 (Arcot & Changleput) enjoy a good State of Health, though the excessive heat & Sicklyness of the Season may probably affect them, 62, 63, 64, 65 (the French) recovers surprizingly and is strong & well.

48, 50, 51, 53, 54 (the King of Tanjour) writes that he has 60, 61, 62, 79, 80, 81, 82, (join'd the English) and says they are all one, you know my Sentiments.

The Reason that 59, 60, 61, 62, 79 (the English) does not hear from 45, 46, 48, 50 (the Dalloway) is I imagine because the Letter went to 34, 44, 24, 64 (Dupliex) who I am perswaded and I believe you think firm.

My Next I hope will advise you of the Arrival of two or three more Europe Ships. I am

Sir
Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS.

As Mr. Cooke's Advices are pretty positive that the Detachment from Pondicherry are design'd against Arcot Resolved that a Reinforcement of fifteen Europeans be sent there and that Captain Pigou be directed to call in all the small Parties of Men from Timmery, Muslepauk, Cavrepauk, &ca. in case the Enemy should direct their March towards Arcot.

The Charge of Changleput being of Consequence Ordered that Captain William Lin (lately arriv'd from England) proceed there as soon as some necessary Stores now preparing can be got ready and take upon him the Command of the Garrison in the room of Lieutenant Greenville.

The President acquaints the Board that Vencata Row the King of Mysores Vackeel has lately requested an Audience, and as Powers & Instructions have been given to Messrs. Lawrence and Palk to mediate between the Nabob & Daloway, he (the President) desires the Sentiments of the Board whether it would be proper to enter into any Negotiation here with the Vakeel in case he should have such Intentions; in respect to which the Board are of Opinion that it would be proper to admit him to an Audience, and to advise Messrs. Lawrence and Palk of what Overtures he may make but that no Offers be made on our Part for the Nabob or any Terms accepted untill an Answer be receiv'd from Trichenopoly; in the mean time as Messrs. Lawrence & Palk in their General Letter of the 26th Ultimo say the Nabob is averse to delivering up Trichinopoly to the Dalloway, it is thought proper to write them pressingly to bring the Nabob to the Point, and insist on his declaring in what other Manner he proposes to maintain the War without throwing the whole Burthen on the Company who are already a very large Sum in advance.

The President also acquaints the Board that he had caus'd one Manoel Lopez deCunha, a Portugueze Inhabitant of St. Thomé to be seiz'd on an Information that he carried on a secret Correspondence with Pondicherry, and that Sundry Papers were found in his House wrote in Cypher and several Letters sign'd by Mr. Dupliex and though the latter contain nothing material yet 'tis imagin'd the other may the Secretary is therefore directed to endeavour to get them decypher'd and Resolv'd the said Manoel Lopez de Cunha be confin'd under a proper Guard until he can clear himself of the Charge against him, or until further Orders.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

Pursuant to Resolution of *last* Consultation the 4th Instant a General Letter to the King of Tavay having been prepar'd is now sign'd and is as follows. 12th

To the King of Tavay.

We have receiv'd your Majesty's Letter by Captain Mc Eacharn who has deliver'd to us also a Contract which your Majesty has been pleas'd to make with him in behalf of the English wherein you are pleas'd to grant to them a Factory and the free Liberty of Trade in your Dominions exclusive of all other European Nations free of all Customs & several other Priviledges therein specifyed, truly sensible of the Sincere Regard and Friendship you are pleas'd to express for us, We accept the said Contract, will settle a Factory at your Place & carry on a Trade that will prove beneficial to your Subjects in the same Manner as We do with the King of Pegu who we hear is in perfect Friendship with you. in the Contract is mention'd some Cannon Shot Powder &ca. these Articles are not immediately to be got, we will procure them as fast as we can your Majesty must no doubt be inform'd that this Country is ruin'd by War and Rebellion, this Prevents us from sending over any Men at present but when our Affairs admit we will readily do it. The four Elephants Teeth you sent were receiv'd as a Mark of your Regard and we desire you will accept of a fine Brass Gun and Carriage which we now send by Captain McEacharn & desire that you will always look upon the English and your own People as one and that there be no Difference between us. Write us constantly of your Health and wherein we can be of Service to you, may the Almighty grant you long Life and Happiness, what can we say more? Thomas Saunders—Charles Boddam—Henry Powney—Alexr. Wynch—John Smith—Charles Bourchier

Fort St. George June 12th 1753.

At a Consultation *Present*

Thomas Saunders Esqr. Govr. Presdt.
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

The President having since last Consultation receiv'd Letters from the Nabob & Mysore Daloway communicated the same to the Gentlemen of Council, as also his Answers both which are now again read and are to the following Effect.

The Nabob's Letters are in his usual Stile full of hopes without proposing any reasonable means of obtaining the Accomplishment of them, he seems much to rely on Balazarow's Friendship and the King of Tanjour's Assistance, and though he acknowledges the French are his bitter Enemies yet he thinks himself secure whilst the English are his Protectors; As to Trichinopoly he says it is in such Estimation at Court and other Places that the Preservation of it will support his Interest as on the contrary the Loss of it will reduce him to great Distress and even if it were granted to the King of Mysore 'tis a question whether he is to be rely'd on; that the Phousdar of Veloor does not seem to him a formidable Enemy, that the Reason his Orders on the Amuldars have not been comply'd with is that the Troubles in the Country have prevented it; that he has wrote to Abdul Vahab Cawn about Storeing the Forts with Grain, and endeavours to excuse Kiroudy Cawn's deceiving Captain Dalton in respect to the Quantity of Provisions in Trichinopoly.

In reply to which the President wrote him that when he last represented to him the Situation of his Affairs it was with a View that he might propose some Means of supporting them, but the whole Purport of his Letter is only that the Enemy must be destroyed, wherefore out of pure Friendship he thinks it necessary to recapitulate the Circumstances of his Affairs which are that the French still preserve their

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

Interest with Salabat Jung—that Gazedey Cawn is no more—Balazarow return'd to his own Country, and the Hopes of Assistance from them vanish'd—In the Arcot and Trichenopoly Provinces scarcely a Polygar appears in his Favour. The Forts are in a ruinous Condition and unprovided with Provisions. The Enemy are growing more powerful and nothing can be undertaken against them without Horse, that 'tis not to be expected the King of Tanjour will run any Risque of ruining his own Country, that our Armies cannot be supported without Money and Forts without Provisions must fall all which is recommended to his Seriotis Consideration as well as the Necessity of concerting some Measures to surmount these Difficulties, a great Step towards which would be to draw off the Mysore King & Moraree from the French.

The Dalloway's Letter contains a Repetition of what he has already urg'd in regard to his Right and Pretensions to Trichenopoly which he still insists upon or the Money he has expended on the Nabob's Account, As to a Reconciliation with him he says his Conscience will not permit him to do it as he is faithless and not to be depended upon, that he is ready to take the most solemn Oath that Moraree is not in his Pay. That he depended on the Nabob's Performance of his Agreement, as the President wrote him he would be ready to execute the Nabob's reasonable Agreement and complains of the Detention of Vencatrow.

The President in answer says that he never wrote any such Letter, that, Vencatrow is at Liberty, that the Measures He (the Daloway) is pursuing are destructive both to himself and the Nabob and are not likely to gain him his Ends, as those who now pretend to be his Friends would in case of the Nabobs ruin seize the Fort for themselves, recommending a Reconciliation and offering his Service to bring it about.

The President at the same time wrote to the King of Tanjour that though he says his Troops have join'd the Nabob's, Major Lawrence advises that they are still at a Distance, desiring he will order them to join and assuring him that in Consequence of our Alliance he may depend on our Friendship & Protection, that any Money he may direct his Shroffs to furnish Major Lawrence with shall be repaid here at Sight and desiring his Acceptance of a Gold Watch, a silver mounted Gun and Spying Glass.

The Camp Correspondence read

Three Letters from Major Lawrence receiv'd since last Consultation are as follow.

Sir

The inclos'd came this Morning from Syringam which I took the Liberty to open in hopes of finding something that might forward our Affairs; I had another by the same Conveyance and to the same Purport, *the Fort or my Money* The Nabob has answer'd his (as I shall do mine to morrow) desiring that a Trusty Person may be sent to him; I cannot be more particular as the Cypher is not in Camp but we are exactly in the same Situation with my last, some of the Tanjour Horse, I can't say their Number, are within fifteen Miles of us and promise to join tomorrow.

I am

Sir

Camp 1st June 1753

Your very humble and Obedient Servt.

S. Lawrence.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

Sir

Captain Charles Campbell who is on Command at Mollampetta in Tondaman's Country, fifteen Miles from hence inform'd me yesterday that some S$^{t.}$ David Hircars with a large Packet passe'd that Place in the Morning but as they are not arriv'd the Letters must have been intercepted and carried to Syringam; a very great Disappointment, your last was of the 15th & Mr. Starke's of the 20th of May, I have none of a later Date.

I can give you no other Account of our Situation than what you will find in my Letter of the 27th; 54, 59, 62 (Tondaman) has hitherto sent nothing but Promises though Captain Campbell writes me that his [*Lacuna in the original*] have now 81, 91, 93 (join'd) but nothing is done to relieve 102 112 115, 33, 43, 53 [*Lacuna in the original*] and I am very apprehensive of 61, 71, 81 (the want of Money. I have represented all this to the King of Tanjour, and am in Expectation of his Answer, I have writ to the Raja but he is not very expeditious in returning the Compliment. We have yet done nothing in the Affair of the 11th (meaning the Treaty propos'd in the General Letter dated 11th May) that promises Success. I shall be glad of your Directions how to proceed for it is impossible to tell when 102, 112, 115, 67, 68, 69 (distress may be remov'd) from 33, 43, 53 (Trichenopoly– I am

Sir

Your most humble & most Obedient

Servant

Trichenopoly

3$^{d.}$ June 1753.

S. LAWRENCE

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ$^{R.}$

Sir

When M$^{r.}$ Astruc apply'd to the Nabob for an Exchange of Prisoners his Answer was that he expected to be paid the great Expence he had been at in subsisting those of the French before he could consent to such a Proposal and I find that he still continues in the same Sentiments, besides he has other Reasons against making the Exchange at this Time. Two Deserters from Syringam who came out on the first Ship give very different Accounts of their Number of Recruits from those you have receiv'd, they deduct above the half & say that three of the Cape Ships were bound to the Islands with Artificers, Women, Children &c$^{a.}$ to repeople Mauritius.

In answer to your last Paragraph of N$^{o.}$ 21, which came in this Morning nothing is yet done nor likely to be done, though we have left no probable Method untry'd.

This Evening I had an answer from the Rajah to my Letter of the 2^{d} full as long and to the same purport as that inclos'd to you the 1st Instant; To that part of mine wherein I desir'd him to send me a sensible Braminy fully instructed with his real Intentions he says "I have ask'd several sensible Vakeels to go to you but they "excuse themselves as they could expect no better Treatment than Vencata Row and "Sasagary Puntala.

As to other Affairs the Duplicate annex'd makes it unnecessary to enlarge on them, I have sent to Tanjour for an Additional Force to dislodge 21, 41, 71 (want of Money) from 61, 91, 111 (the English) about five hundred Horse are join'd, more are to follow when the Morattas remove from Chellumbrum. I am

Trichenopoly

6 June 1753.

Sir

Your most Obedient hum̃. Serv$^{t.}$

S. LAWRENCE

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ$^{R.}$

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

The President wrote to Major Lawrence since last Consultation as follows

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^R.

Sir Fort S^t. George 13^th June 1753.

Since I wrote you the 5^th Instant I have receiv'd yours of the 27^th Ultimo, the 1^st & 3^d Instant and the joint one of the 29^th Ult^o. I am sorry you have receiv'd only mine of the 15^th, since which I have wrote you the 22^d, 23^d 31^st, the 1^st & 5^th Instant; In that of the 31^st were inclos'd Bills for Pag^s. ten thousand and I am now so lucky as to have got Bills for 10,000 more which are under this Cover, I have wrote the King of Tanjour that whatever Sums his Shroffs pay you, I will on Sight of your Bills pay the amount.

I have receiv'd a Letter from 40, 41, 45, 46, 48 (the Mysore Dalloway) the Contents nothing but the old Story I sent for his Vakeel who tells me his Master has a sincere Friendship for the 11^th (the Treaty mention'd in the General Letter 11^th May) not an Inch of him but what he regards and such is his regard that he would if the Padres enjoin'd him a Penance of six Months, undergo it to see him.

It appears to me that the Difficulty lyes in 40, 41, 45, 49, 50 (the Nabob) I think if he is not inclin'd to this he should point out how 70, 71, 72 (Want of Money) is to be destroyed, if he is push'd I imagine he will pursue 23, 24, 25, 26, 72 (Treachery) which is his old Game, therefore Circumspection is necessary and a reasonable Explanation how 70, 71, 72 (Want of Money) is to be treated, should be demanded.

I have receiv'd two Letters from 45, 49, 50, 59, 62, 72 (the Nabob) wrote in the Eastern Stile, it flows easy and has an Air of Importance but is trifling & nothing to the Purpose, he places an inestimable Value in the Friendship of 38, 40, 43, 45, 87, 84 (Trichenopoly) and yet in the strongest Terms acknowledges 100, 102, 104, 106 (Distress and Want of Forces) if so, will not the latter in a short time rob him of the Friendship of the former, write — (tell) — him this and in your Letter explain it to him.

I think 100, 102, 104, 108, 109 (Distress) deserves your Serious Attention, I suppose you have Advices from S^t. David, Moraree is said to be moving to the Southward and the Enemy towards Arcot.

This morning I have heard of Verdachilum surrendering.

M^r. Starke return'd to S^t. David the 10^th in the morning.

Inclos'd are Copies of Letters to the King of Tanjore, the King of Mysore and the Nabob.

I hope you will soon have finish'd Affairs.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

The following General Letter has also been wrote to Mess^rs. Lawrence & Palk

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^R.

&

M^R. ROBERT PALK

Gentlemen Fort S^t. George 14^th June 1753

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 29^th, the Vakeel of 41, 46, 45 (the Dalloway) expresses a thorough Satisfaction to every Inch of the 11^th (Vide General Letter 11^th May) 53, 49, 50 (the Nabob) We believe has not any Regard or Friendship to him but did not he introduce 53, 52 51 (the King of Tanjour) into this Affair, he possibly

——— *FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*———

may not like the Interest 61, 62, 64, 65 (the English) may have in it, but upon serious Consideration we hope will alter his Opinion, for what else can he propose to gratify 70, 71, 72, 100, 102, 104 (want of Money and Distress) you will be the best Judges of 53, 52, 51 (the King of Tanjour) he promises largely but I believe 61, 62, 64, 65 (the English) won't have great Confidence in him.

We shall be glad to hear 102, 103, 104 (Distress) is compleat and hope by this time 69, 70, 71 (want of Money) will be satisfy'd.

We are
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort S$^{t.}$ George
14th June 1753.

The several Papers which were lately seiz'd belonging to one Manoel Lopez da Cunha as mention'd in last Consultation having been examin'd, the Purport of them is now laid before the Board and although they do not contain any thing amounting to a Proof of a Criminal Correspondence with the French, yet as the President informs the Board he is well assur'd that Letters have been seen from him at Pondicherry giving an Account of the Force receiv'd here from Europe; It is mov'd that the suffering such disaffected Persons to reside in the Compys Bounds may be of dangerous Consequences and therefore that he be sent on board a Portugueze Ship now lying in the Road bound to Macao, in which the Board unanimously concur.

The President acquaints the Board that although he has long been possess'd of several Orders from the Nabob on the Amuldars of the Adjacent Countries for the Payment of five Lacks of Rupees on account of the Nabob's Debt to the Company yet he has not been able to receive any part of it from them as they constantly evade the Payment under Pretence that the unsettled State of the Province prevents their collecting the Revenues and though it is very evident that the Troubles in the Countries must be a very great Hindrance, yet it is not less certain that they have receiv'd considerable Sums and may probably hereafter pretend in their Justification that they have apply'd them towards the Discharge of the Company's Debt, therefore to guard against any thing of this kind as well as to leave no means untry'd of recovering as much as possible of what the Company is in Advance, the President moves that a Committee of the Board be appointed to examine into this Affair and for that Purpose to send for the Nabob's Agents and to enquire of them whether any & what sums have been paid on account of the Nabob's Debt to the Company & to produce proper Vouchers for the same, to insist on knowing the Reason why the Nabob's Orders have not been duly comply'd with & require a more punctual Observance of them. The Board having consider'd the motion approve thereof and Mess$^{rs.}$ Charles Boddam, Henry Powney and Alexander Wynch are appointed the Committee for transacting this Affair and the several Papers relating thereto are now deliver'd to them.

THO$^{S.}$ SAUNDERS
CHA$^{S.}$ BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A$^{R.}$ WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH$^{S.}$ BOURCHIER

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

Monday the 25th

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRESID^T.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the Camp Correspondence amongst which are the following Letters receᵈ from Major Lawrence and M^r. Palk since last Consultation.

Sir

Inclos'd are Copies of Letters to the King of Tanjour with his answer to one of mine; That of this days Date is in very strong & plain Terms and will therefore I hope have a proper Effect, I shall impatiently expect a satisfactory Answer.

M^r. Palk has represented to me the high Charges which M^r. Wynch's Contract labours under and desir'd that he might be suffer'd to pay the Military their full Batta and the Contractor to stand to all other Expences which run very high, as I could not agree to this Proposal & as Allowances have been always made on the like Occasions, I have desir'd him to pay the Steward's Disbursements out of the Military Chest, placeing it to the Honble Company's Account and to continue to do the same 'till your Pleasure shall be known. 21, 41, 71 (Want of Money) is a sad Article, I must beg your Assistance for I find the Method we have taken will not be sufficient.

A proper Person being wanted to do the Duty of Quarter Master, I have desir'd Lieut^t. Morrice to supply the Place for the present, I have done this to encourage a young Officer who has really behav'd well on every Occasion & is therefore deserving of your Countenance.

I send you a Duplicate of my yesterday's Letter and I am

Sir

Your most Obedient humble Serv^t.

Trichenopoly
7^th June 1753.

S. LAWRENCE

THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R.

N: B:

The Purport of the Letters mention'd to be inclos'd in the foregoing is as follows viz^t. those from the Major to the King of Tanjour are very pressingly to desire he will order his Troops to join agreeable to his Promise and also to assist the Nabob with Provisions for Trichenopoly without which it will be impossible to maintain that Fort and consequently it must fall into the Dalloways Hands and assuring him that as soon as a sufficient Store is laid into that Place the Army will in case his Country should be in Danger march for it's Protection or else attack the Daloway as shall be thought best- To which the King of Tanjour in answer says that we may depend he will comply with whatever he promis'd in regard to Forces & that he has order'd his People to send whatever Provisions they can spare.

Honourable Sir

Inclos'd I send you Duplicates of Major Lawrence's last Letter, he receiv'd yours of the 22^d. of last Month yesterday morning & went immediately to Camp to watch the Motions of the Enemy who were discover'd at Sun Rise encamping on this Side the River about four Miles West of the Fort in a strong Situation surrounded by Paddy Fields.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

Captain Donald Campbell return'd at noon from reconnoitring them but I know not what Accounts he brings or whether the Major intends to attack their Camp which he certainly will do if he finds it practicable & not otherwise as it may interfere with what is principally to be regarded, the getting in Provisions.

Nothing more can be done at present to forward the Governour & Council's Directions no Sort of Inclination is shewn towards an Accommodation, and very little indeed is done at 54, 64, 74.

It is reported that Monagee is coming to join us from Tricatapully, but this I can scarce believe while the Morattas are in the Neighbourhood of the Northern Parts of the Tanjour Dominions. I am with the greatest Respect.

Hᵒnble Sir

Trichenopoly, 10th June 1753.

Your most Obedient hum. Servt.
ROBERT PALK

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.

Hoñble Sir

The Major being still in Camp I take the Liberty to inclose a Duplicate of my last, The French and Mysoreans are now entrench'd on this Side the River they have no Intentions 72, 82, 92, 46, 63, 73 (to make an Attempt) though another Party of thirty Europeans, as many Topasses & one Officer came from the Northward to Seringam this Evening. Instead of sending away 102, 103, 104 (Distress) from 43, 45, 48 (Trichenopoly) a greater Addition is made and unless other Articles besides the first of your Letter of the 11th could be brought about, it is imagin'd that we shall be more embarrass'd as it will be so full of Consequences. 49, 5[illegible], 69, 121, 131 (the Nabob & Major) will be determin'd by 21, 41, 51 (the King of Tanjour) the Nabob and the Major impatiently expect an Answer from the King of Tanjour, he can do great Things if he pleases or 41, 43, 50, 48, 68, 46 (Trichenopoly will fall to the King of Mysore) in that case we must peruse attentively your Favour of the 11th Ultº. not that I imagine a proper Regard will be paid to it. They hold too close a Correspondence with 102, 71, 43 (Distress and Want of Money in Trichenopoly) I wish 63, 73, 89 (the French) was at a greater Distance. I am with great Respect

Hoñble Sir

Trichenopoly, 12th June 1753.

Your most Obedient humble Servant
ROBERT PALK

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ.

Sir

Mr. Palk writ the two last Letters at my Desire inclos'd comes a Duplicate of yesterdays, I was this morning favour'd with both yours of 31st May and 1st June; The Miscarriage of mine of the 15th was owing to the Hircars Stupidity, I shall be very cautious of the Conveyance. The Supply of Cash is a very seasonable Relief; The Marquiss of Dupliex writes that the Veloor Phousdar is Salabat Jung's Substitute in the Arcot Province, I have heard that Money will purchase the Title at any time.

I am very well assur'd that 59, 60, 61, 62 (the Nabob and the English) will not greatly confide in 55, 53, 51, 50, 79 (the King of Tanjour, in spite of 80, 81, 82 (his Junction) but yet in the present Circumstances it is their Interest to sollicit strongly as their Views cannot easily be accomplish'd without his Assistance, my late Letters will convince you that the Affair wrote me about cannot succeed at

——FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.——

present 26, 46, 66, 76 (the King of Mysore) expects 102, 103, 104, 105 & 69, 70, 71, 72 (distress & want of Money) are making long Marches to Trichenopoly, I shall endeavour to intercept them & then only 105, 108, 115, 118 in 33, 43, 53, 59, 60 (Seapoys in Trichenopoly) clear'd of all Incumbrances may make a long Stand, but this Rout depends entirely on 55, 54, 53, 52, 51 (Tondaman & the King of Tanjour) and 63, 47, 48, 68, 5, 3, 1 (the French & Moraree marching Northward).

Your acquainting me with the Names and Time when Officers are appointed will be sufficient, I can give them out in Orders, you know that Martin Harrison, Joseph Clack & Young Polier make three Vacancies and I hope you will think of filling up the Vacant Companies.

I have appointed Mr. Kerk, the Eldest Lieutenant of the Bengal Detachment to do the Duty of Captain 'till the Governour & Council's Pleasure shall be known his Behaviour merits Encouragement.

32, 33, 34, 35 (Changleput) requires your greatest Attention on many accounts, more especially 63, 89, 113 (the French Officers).

In two Letters I desir'd a Gold Watch might be sent to Tanjour, I now repeat my Request for I am told it is expected.

I am

Trichenopoly
13th June 1753

Sir
Your most Obedient, humble Servant
STRINGER LAWRENCE.

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.

Captain Dalton writes that the Company of Seapoys (late Cope's) are grown very uneasy for their Pay, ten months being due to them, besides two month's Batta and what makes them complain the more is not only the Scarcity of Provision but seeing the Seapoys with the Major are regularly paid and plainly say they expect to be paid by the Company and not the Nabob, that they will serve nobody but the English and unless their Case is consider'd they will go with the Army to St. David, he therefore desires that some Money may be remitted him to satisfy them as they are absolutely necessary for the Defence of the Place and that some means may be thought of to enable him to defray the Hospital and other Charges of the Fort after the Major and Nabob are gone

The following is what the President wrote the Major since last Consultation

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR.

Sir
Fort St. George 21st. June 1753.

My last was the 13th.; I have yours of the 6th. & 7th. to reply to.

Mr. Cooke writes me the Commissary has drawn several Bills on St. David, and we have sent you from hence Bills for Pags. 20,000 which I hope will prove beneficial.

Mons. Dupliex has wrote me nothing concerning Prisoners; Only two Ships are yet arriv'd at Pondicherry & no more than three here.

I have already advis'd you what was said to me concerning the 11th. (i: e: the Genl. Letter 11th. May) since which the Vackeel of 41, 45, 49, 50, 62 (the Nabob) has been with me, he talks of things at a great Distance but nothing to the Purpose, but chiefly relies on 33, 34, 31, 51, 53, 55 (the King of Tanjore) and prizes the Value of

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*——

22, 23, 26, 41, 43, 45 (Trichenopoly) at an inestimable Rate, he would be content with the other, so that I have not to add to what I have already wrote you which is still my Opinion

The last Account of the Enemy is that they are at Verdachilum which Place they are demolishing

The Rains I suppose will have swell'd the Rivers, you will be the best Judge what Service or Disservice this may be to the Enemy or the Nabob, in regard to your Communication and other Circumstances, as they are on this Side the River, they cannot then so much annoy you. I think 100, 102, 104, 106 (Distress) should be dispatch'd as soon as possible and the other rests entirely on 41, 49, 50, 45, 62 (the Nabob) on which I have before said the necessary.

Parkim Vencatrow is very well satisfy'd here and Salgary Punt at St. David

I am glad to hear 500 Horse have join'd you, 1500 more would be much better, I hope in my next to hear of them.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS.

P.S. I approve of M^r. Morrice's acting as Quartermaster

Draught of a Letter from the President to Tondaman is also read desiring he will continue to exert himself in assisting the Nabob with Provisions for Trichenopoly.

M^r. Cooke at Fort S^t. David writes that he is inform'd the Enemy have demolish'd the outward Walls and Bastions of Trivedy Fort and that nothing now remains but a Pagoda and an inner Compound Wall very slight, that all the Cannon are carried away and only forty Seapoys are left in the Pagoda, that their Entrenchment at Rampaukum is also utterly destroyed and they have began do the same with the Fort at Verdachilum where Moraree and a Body of French Forces are assembled. That he has also Intelligence of a Party of the Enemy consisting of three hundred Horse two hundred Seapoys & some European Gunners with seven Guns and an Officer being near Sadrass & that he imagines they may be intended against Changleput

The President pursuant to Resolution of Consultation the 9^th Instant having wrote to Captain Pigou at Arcot that in case the Enemy should bend their March that way, it would be adviseable to call in the Detachments from Timmery, Muslepauk &^ca. a Letter from Captain Pigou is now read in which is the following Paragraph—"Timmery & Covrepauk are as defensible as this Place, Muslepauk "I am credibly inform'd will cost the Enemy some men before they can possess "themselves of it, and the Nabob says should those Garrisons be withdrawn his "People will be greatly dishearten'd, therefore shall be glad of your further Advice "on that Subject, for should the Enemy attack those Places first I could not assist "them from hence and it's probable they might succeed, as there are but a few Men "in each Fort, and should they lay Siege to us first it will also be impossible for those "Detachments to come here

Captain William Lin at Changleput writes that having carefully view'd the Situation of that Place & examin'd the Works, he is of Opinion that several Alterations and Amendments (which he enumerates and explains) will be absolutely necessary to render the Fort tenable, and that the Expence attending it will be very moderate. That until these can be executed he desires a Reinforcement of one Company of Seapoys with which Addition to his Strength he doubts not but he shall be

——FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.——

able not only to defend the Place against any Force that may probably be brought against it but even to prevent it's being besieg'd by placing proper Guards at the only three Avenues through which the Enemy can possibly bring any Cannon.

In regard to what Captain Pigou observes in relation to the Defence of Arcot & several other Out Forts the Board are of Opinion that Covrepauk, Muslepauk & Timmery are certainly of Consequence as they will always contribute much to keep the Communication open with Arcot and therefore should be preserv'd if it can be done consistently with the Safety of that Place but not otherwise. The President is therefore desir'd to acquaint Captn. Pigou that he is on no Account to weaken his Garrison so as to expose Arcot to the least Hazard; the Safety of which Place is to be his Chief Care; at the same time if he thinks his Strength can enable him to protect the other Forts, 'twill be an acceptable Service.

And as to the Alterations and Repairs propos'd by Captain Lin to be made at Changleput, the Board are of Opinion that as they are represented to be necessary for the Preservation of the Place and not expensive it will be proper they should be set about immediately, the Charges whereof are to be carried to the Debit of the Nabob's Account; and that the Garrison there be reinforc'd by a Company of Seapoys with an European Corporal and six Matrosses.

The Committee appointed the 18th Instant to enquire into the Reasons why the Nabob's Orders on his Amuldars for Payment of five Lacks of Rupees on account of his Debt to the Company have not been comply'd with, now deliver in their Report which is read as follows

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &CA. COUNCIL OF
FORT ST. GEORGE

Honble Sir & Sirs

In Consequence of a Resolution in Council of the 18th. Instant, we appointed a meeting with Sumpetrow Antazapunt, the Nabob's Vakeel & Ninaree one of the Nabob's Amuldars and enquiring of them what Sums of Money had been paid to the Company on the Nabob's Account since the Commencement of the Troubles to which they severally reply'd they knew of no more than would plainly be seen in their Accounts which they had at times deliver'd in and referr'd us to them for the Particulars, but observing that Sumpetrow's Account then before us was settled only to September last, and we looking upon him as acting in the Caracter of the Nabob's Duan, who we apprehended should make himself responsible for all Accounts from the Nature of the Post he held in his Service, it was to be expected our Application to him on this Subject was leading to the most direct Channel it ought to come from and therefore we principally address'd ourselves to him for a just Information, to which he told us he had not been in any Publick Station since the Death of old Anaverdy Cawn, Father to Mahomed Ally, and consequently he could not be regarded as Duan to him, the present Nabob having had no Connection or Concern in his Government at least to transact Affairs in that Capacity he was formerly honour'd with and what he had undertaken of late proceeded from a Point of Friendship and Esteem of assisting the Nabob with his Council and Advice whenever the Situation of his Affairs required it, than that he was invested with any publick Employment, which if any Matters of Importance were recommended to him by the Nabob he should always be very willing to do his best Offices for him & chearfully obey his Commands but this was the Extent of his Business or the Light he appear'd in, that latterly he had not interfer'd in any thing to give us a more ample Insight of the Nabob's Affairs than what we should find in the Perusal of his Acct. he had lain before us, which contain'd the Summary of his Transactions & he was utterly a Stranger to any other Accounts

With regard to the several Orders the President produc'd to the Board he had receiv'd from the Nabob on the different Renters of the Province for the Payment of five Lack of Rupees and which he acquainted us to have had so long in his Possession

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, JUNE 1753.*———

without any Manner of Effect in getting the Money paid, we tender'd the Respective Orders to the aforesaid Persons who were present with us to know if they had any certain Knowledge of the Payment of the Money or any part of it on whom those Bills were drawn upon, who in general assur'd us they believ'd nothing had been paid of those Draughts offer'd to their View & asking the cause of it that the Nabob's Injunctions were disobey'd in so slighting a Manner, the answer we receiv'd from them was that the Country being in so unsettled and distracted a State, the Renters were not able to collect in their Money of even defraying the Common Charges they were at and much less in complying with the Demands the Nabob had given upon them, that great part of the Country they had rented to make themselves accountable for the Payment of so large a Sum of Money were now actually in the hands of the Enemy and they were quite depriv'd of the means to satisfy the Nabob in those Demands he had sent upon them and it was the Opinion of Sumpetrow and the Rest of them in the present Posture of Affairs little or nothing could be recover'd of the Renters in consequence of those Orders as Abdul Vahab Cawn, the Nabob's Brother, was in those Parts raising Contributions wherever he could to maintain the Forces he had with him for the Defence of the Country thereabouts and taking the Revenues to himself, which absolutely render'd the Nabob's Hamildars of those Districts incapable of furnishing the Supplies expected from them: Ninaree's Reply to us was grounded on the same Complaint in default of the Payment of the Demand on him and it appearing to us he was one of the most considerable and Substantial Renters if any Dependence could be had on the Nabob's Orders to procure Money from his Amuldars which surpriz'd us the more in what Ninaree added further to us, that the Nabob's Brother had dispossessed him of his Places and Countries to leave him destitute of the Power or Authority for doing any thing beneficial to his Masters Interest.

We now beg Leave to persuade your Honour &c^{a} we have executed your Commands to the best of our Power in the Affair recommended to us, and the above is a true Representation of the Facts recited to us which we submit to your further Consideration what other Measures to take of enforcing the Payment of the Money that as the Nabob's Debt is become so very large to the Company we think it highly necessary it should be lessen'd by all means as much as possible.

We are with great Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient & most
humble Servants

CHARLES BODDAM, HENRY POWNEY, A^{R} WYNCH.

Whereon the Board are of Opinion that Sumpetrow's declaring he is neither the Nabob's Duan nor in any other publick Employ, carries with it the Appearance of an Evasion. The President is therefore desir'd when he writes to the Nabob to tell him he would do well to appoint Sumpetrow to manage the Affairs of this Country, which must draw from him a Declaration whether he has been invested with that Power or not and in regard to what the Amuldars say in their Justification for not complying with the Nabob's Orders the Board are of Opinion that nothing further can be done in it until the Affairs of Trichenopoly are settled one way or the other.

THO^{S} SAUNDERS
CHA^{S} BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R} WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{S} BOURCHIER.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

Monday the 2nd.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present.*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRESID^T.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the Country and Camp Correspondence; amongst the former the only Letters worthy Remark are, one from our Vakeel to Balazarow and two from the Vakeel or rather Spy at Salabat Jung's Camp; the most material Parts of which are related in a Letter from the President to Major Lawrence and is as follows viz^t.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R.

Sir Fort S^t. George 29^th June 1753.

I wrote you under Date the 21^st Instant since which I have receiv'd two from M^r. Palk of the 10^th and 12^th. and one from you of the 13^th by which I observe no further Alteration than the junction of some Tanjour Horse and the Enemy's Encampment on the other Side the Calderoon which I am apprehensive will incommode you greatly, the French have a third Ship arriv'd at Pondicherry, I don't yet hear what Reinforcement they have receiv'd by her.

Our Vakeel to Balazarow is on his Return, his Letter only confirms what already wrote you, Declarations of Friendship and that he will return to this Province after the Monsoon; I have Letters from M^r. Bourchier but there is no mention of the French having assisted the Moratta in taking Carnoul.

Letters from our Vakeel at Salabat Jung's Camp say that Sidoo Lascar Cawn's Counsel prevails, that Salabat Jung is on his March to Aurungabad with about one hundred French and one thousand Seapoys, that Mons^r. Bussy with the Remainder accompany Meer Mahomed Hussen Cawn (who is appointed to the Subahship of Golconda) to that Place, Should M^r. Dupliex think Affairs require their returning here it may easily be effected in August and my Opinion is that he will recall them.

The Vakeel's Letter of the 6^th May mentions that a Detachment of two hundred French & five hundred Seapoys were sent against the Killedar of Beda and to raise Contributions, in that of the 21^st May he gives no further account of it, he reports that the French are jealous of the Musselmen and that the Morattas are in possession of most of that Country.

I have long ago deliver'd the Tanjour Vakeel a Watch, a Silver mounted Gun and Silver mounted Spying Glass

The King of Mysore writes me he shall be contented if the Nabob pay him his Money or if 48, 50, 51, 52, 53 (the King of Tanjour) would be Security for it; the Nabob will readily mortgage a part of the Country for it, or the other might possibly be Security, but in this there is no real Intention, a Dispute not to be ended would immediately arise, how much the Debt was, and if he was to charge as he writes me & talks the Sum would be immense, so that I think it must be look'd upon as design'd only to amuse, the whole Province know that the Hopes of Trichenopoly drew him from his own Country & nothing but ill Success will divert him from his Pursuit.

I could almost flatter myself that the Letter of the [*Lacuna in the original*] (11th May) will be well receiv'd in all respects 50, 48, 66, 46 (the King of Mysore) probably not 49, 59, 69, 68 (the Nabob).

I have spent some hours in Reflection, I don't think we are to be amus'd to no Purpose, let him point out a more Plausible Method and at the same time give me your Opinion of it whether he can do it. 48, 49, 50, 51, 59, 60, 61, 62 (the Nabob, King of Tanjour & the English) will play a smart Game, 'tis their last & only

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

Push if their Plan should succeed as they wish. 69, 70, 71, 72 (want of Money) is grown excessively insolent and if I can form any judgment of the Disposition of Mankind, 59, 60, 61, 62 (English) cannot bear his Haughtiness much longer.

What I have said is I believe sufficient to demonstrate to you the General Opinion that prevails. I hope soon to hear 100, 102, 104, 108 (Distress) has quitted his Quarters and that 51, 52, 53, 5 (the King of Tanjour) has answer'd the End, if not, your judgment will I imagine soon Perceive what is to be done.

Capt^{n}· Ridge, Calliaud & Lin with Ensigns Campbel & Frazer are arriv'd from England and have been deliver'd their respective Commissions, Mess^{rs}· Christian Fisher, Achilles Preston, Arthur Nelson & Joseph Somme[r]s are prefer'd to Lieutenants and M^{r}· Morrice to be Quartermaster the several Vacancies are fill'd up except two that yet remain for Ensigns. One M^{r}· Greig is come out in the List of Military, he says he is known and recommended to You, Captain Ridge tells me the Man knows his Duty I have therefore order'd him to act as a Voluntier which will entitle him to Preferment, He was I believe abroad with M^{r}· Boscawen as a Serjeant.

I am Sir
Your most Obed^{t}· Serv^{t} Tho^{s}· Saunders.

After writing the foregoing the President receiv'd the following from Major Lawrence and M^{r}· Palk.

Sir

Your favour of the 5th came in this morning with M^{r}· Cooke's Advices of the Motions of his Neighbours which seem to spread like a Torrent; some Detachments have come this way, more it is said are expected with Morari, we do not yet hear what Progress they have made; All that I can say is we shall do our best in every Circumstance, for the rest I refer you to my Letter of the 13th, nothing very material has happen'd since.

Sure enough 62, 63, 64, 65 (the French) recovers most surprizingly, the Sickly Season at 19, 20, 21, 22 (Trivedy) and 102, 103, 104, 43 (Distress at Trichenopoly) added to 68, 69, 70 (our March) have done Wonders. I am busily employed in removing the Cause, for then it is to be hop'd the Effect will in some measure cease. The enclos'd is in answer to the Copy I sent you, He is very slow, the Nabob thinks M^{r}· Palk's paying him a Visit may make him more alert, with this Expectation he sets out this Evening.

I don't hear that any Correspondence passes between 59, 60, 61, 62, 79, 45, 46, 48, 5 (the English and King of Mysore) indeed I am of Opinion it would be to no Sort of Purpose, he is firm & Steady. Our Ships make long Passages, It would be great Ease to 32, 33, 34, 35 (Changleput) if 62, 63, 64, 89, 99 (the French Prisoners) could be better accommodated.

M^{r}· Repington expresses a strong Inclination to join me but as the Morattas are dispers'd every where I have order'd him to wait at S^{t}· David; Black Fellows find great Difficulties on the Road, how much more would an European — I am — Sir. Your most Obed^{t}· Hum: Serv^{t}· S. Lawrence.

Camp near Trichenopoly
18th June 1753.

P.S. Captain Dalton has desir'd my Consent to draw on the Company for Rup^{s}· 20,000 for the use of the Seapoys in this Garrison after my Departure, as the Request is reasonable I could not object to it.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}·

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

Honble Sir.

At the Request of the Nabob and Major Lawrence I came here yesterday to sollicit this King's Assistance, I waited on him immediately after my Arrival and (in the Ambassador Strain) was very graciously receiv'd.

I represented in the best Manner I was able the Nabob's Expectations from his Friendship and Alliance; Forces, Provisions and Money and after some hours Debate he concluded, that

As to Forces if a small Addition to those who had already join'd were wanted he was ready to send them, that he could not leave his Country naked and expos'd to the Ravages of the Morattas who were ready to take every Advantage; I told him that with his Assistance in a few days we should do the Business and then we might in Conjunction oppose his Enemies everywhere, that the Morattas were employed in other Schemes and that in a very little Time our Ships would supply us with a large Force, But all I could say would not prevail, in short I find his Inclinations are strong on the Nabob's Side only he is apprehensive of the Event which added to the Menaces of Nanderoz & Moraree frighten him terribly, he is in a Quandary and would be glad to be of the right Side.

With regard to Provisions he promises to [do] his utmost and assures me that in a few days all the Bullocks & Cooleys that can be procur'd shall be dispatch'd. I wish we may find it so, he shall not want to be reminded which is all I can do.

When I mention'd money he pleaded Poverty he said he would spare all he could but I believe it will be very little, he is pressing for more men from S$^{t.}$ David, in that case I found Monagee would join for he had much rather have his old Neighbour continue than Nanderoz at Trichenopoly.

I believe a Letter however from you might forward our Affairs, I made use of your Name & told him that as he might one time or other want Assistance it would be good Policy to deserve it, he says you are his Brother, and that he expects every thing from you, in a few days we shall see what he will do.

I am to wait here to purchase and dispatch all the Grain I can, to send for Arrack from Negapatam and to negotiate your Bills, this will take up time but if we succeed in what is the present View, getting Provisions, I shall not return to Trichenopoly but shall wait your Answer & then make the best of my way to S$^{t.}$ David and immediately after to Madrass; I think I have had my Share of Compaigning — I am with the greatest Respect

Honble Sir

Tanjour 22^{d} June 1753. Your very humble & most Obed$^{t.}$ Servant

Rob$^{t.}$ Palk.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq$^{r.}$

P.S.

I am told that the Daloway intends to encamp near the Nabob, this step must soon decide the Affair, & hitherto the Enemy have been very inactive.

Honble Sir Tanjour 23^{d} June 1753.

I acquainted you yesterday of my Arrival & Reception here, Boocunjee Coshesdos receiv'd orders this morning to pay the Nabob a Sum amounting to little more than the 4th Part of the Bills you sent lately and one hundred Bullocks with

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

Grain are to set out to morrow, more of each are promis'd to follow ; a poor Pittance this, there is no Remedy but Patience.

I am
Honble Sir
Your very humble and Obedient Servant.

ROBT. PALK.

I hear Tondaman is on his March to join the Nabob

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.

The Army having been now a considerable Time at Trichenopoly and not the least Progress made towards an Accommodation and scarcely any towards storing the Fort with Provisions, whilst the Enemy's Strength is daily increasing which will certainly throw fresh Difficulties in the Way, the President is desir'd to write again to the Major that no time should be lost but an Accommodation with the Daloway brought about if possible as 'tis plain very little can be expected from the King of Tanjour who is not only alarm'd with the Apprehensions of Danger in his own Country but also pleads Poverty & Tondaman's Dilatoriness does not seem to promise any very considerable Supply of Provisions without which Trichenopoly must inevitably fall nor will the throwing in a few month's Stores do more than procrastinate the Danger for should the Nabob's Army return to these Parts (and it is highly necessary it should as shortly as possible) the Dalloway will doubtless again block up the Fort so closely as to prevent any further Supplies going in whereby it must soon be reduc'd to it's former distress and that at a Time when the Rains and the Enemy's Force may render it's Relief impracticable.

Captain William Lin at Changleput writes the President that near one hundred Stand of Arms belonging to the Seapoys in Garrison there are in so bad a Condition that they are almost useless, desiring that they may be exchang'd for a Number of New ones to be sent from hence.

Resolv'd that to avoid the Inconvenience of an Escort, the Company of Seapoys at Changleput be order'd hither to have their Arms exchang'd and then return'd to their Garrison

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

In consequence of the Resolution in Consultation yesterday, the President wrote 3d. to Major Lawrence as follows

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR.

Sir Fort St. George 3d July 1753.

The 29th Ultimo was the date of my last yours was the 18th & two from Mr. Palk of the 22d & 23d.

It is plain I think that nothing of Consequence can be expected from 48, 50, 51, 53, 55 (the King of Tanjour) and consequently that what 40, 45, 49, 48, 52 (the Nabob) advances on that Subject will never satisfy 98, 100, 102, 103, 66, 69, 71, 72

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*———

Distress and Want of Money) nor can 55, 59, 61, 64 (the English) do it. The 11th (i : e : the Treaty propos'd in General Letter 11th May) will be agreeable; undertake (t ; and is it not almost certain that 98, 100, 102, 103, 66, 69, 71, 72 (Distress and Want of Money) will amount to the same thing though with Circumstances that some People must have a great Aversion to, and even if 99, 100, 102, 101, 104 (Distress) could be prevail'd on to act a Friendly Part with 34, 38, 40, 43, 50 (Trichenopoly for a few months, probably 40, 49, 50, 53, 76, 96, 121, 134, 61, 64, 65, 68, 70 to 30, 34, 38, 43, 45 (the Nabob and Major with the Army marching back to Trichenopoly) might not then be practicable, the Consequences of which are obvious.

The Montfort arriv'd this Morning, Mr. Dillens with 2 Subalterns and 61 Train are landed.

It is my Opinion a material Part of the Plan of 55, 59, 61, 64 (the English) is to lose no time but push the main Point; if 40, 49, 48, 52 (the Nabob) joins, they will conclude there remain little Difficulty and will therefore use their utmost Endeavours to cause such junction as they see plainly nothing else will do.

Inclos'd is a Letter to the Nabob which, if you approve may be deliver'd to him.

I am sorry Tondaman is so dilatory as well as others; Dispatch is of the utmost Consequence; The French have another Ship arriv'd, they will by the Advantage of Horse join'd to their Recruits be able to send abroad a force that the Nabob without Horse cannot obstruct.

We may expect two or three Ships in daily and the others very soon as they were all sail'd and have all Recruits on board, they unluckily pass St. David without touching.

What I have wrote is the General Opinion of the step to be taken, it appears the only one and I heartily wish you very speedy Success in it.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

4th. Receiv'd the following Letters from Major Lawrence and Mr. Palk

Sir Trichenopoly 25th. June 1753.

I wrote you word in my last that I had sent Mr. Palk to Tanjour, I suppose he has acquainted you of what pass'd between him and the Raja.

Since my last the Enemy have encamp'd in a strong Post between us and Tondamans Country with a Design to stop our Provisions. The Quantity we have at present 105, 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 114 (of Officers & Military) puts it out of my power 90, 91, 92, 93, 63, 45, 46 (to make an Attempt on the French and Mysoreans) The Distance 86, 87, 88, 90 (of Fort St. David) makes 76, 77 (the want of Ammunition) a Point to be observ'd. For this and other Reasons which my Cypher is not sufficiently Copious to explain I propose shortly 67, 68, 69, 50, 51 (to march to Tanjour) as it appears the most reasonable Method by which I can assist 43, 45, 48 (Trichenopoly) I should be glad that you would as soon as possible send the largest Supply you can of 112, 113, 105, 106, 107 (Officers & Military) after which I shall either 67, 68, 91, 92, 62, 63, 46, 48 (make an Attempt against the French and Mysoreans) or take any other Step which may appear best to you for the Good of the Service. The Situation of our Friend 43, 73, 79 (Trichenopoly) is such that he need not fear

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

his Enemies particularly as I shall support him if he is in danger, your sending me what I have before mention'd will put it more in my power, which is in great Measure my Reason for 67, 68, 50, 51 (marching to Tanjour) and I hope he will act as I would have him and likewise 81, 60, 61 (join us).

I am Sir

Your most Humble Servant

S. LAWRENCE

Honble Sir

Tanjour 27th. June 1753. 7 P.M.

The inclos'd arrived just now, a great Numbe[r] of Bullocks for Trichenopoly are setting out and what to do i[n] the Affair I know not, to countermand them would be publishing the Majors Intentions and to send them on will n[ot] be treating my Friend very civilly for he has really tak[en] Pains to get them together They must proceed 'till Con[tra]dictory Orders meet them.

I don't think 41, 51, 52 (the King [of] Tanjour will be well pleas'd with this 28, 38, 48, 68 (March) they have not been consulted & the Expectation of 3, 5, 7, 106, [113] (Officers & Military) will take up time, supposing we wer[e] certain of Success in 92, 46, 48, 50, of which I have some doubt at least there is nothing to be depended on. I dont well understand 76, 77 (Want of Ammunition; I am thinking that our Friends at Tranquebar might assist us, on this occasion and some others, and Negapatam lies rather more convenient

From Day Light to ten this Morning there has been a constant Roar of heavy Cannon, I hope they are well pointed as they cannot be from the Enemy. I am with great Respect

Honble Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant

ROBERT PALK.

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.

P.S. I hear from the Hircars that the Enemy took Altera the 24 at night and that they cannonaded the Major's Camp on the 25th. which oblig'd us to move

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The President having communicated the foregoing Letters to the Gentlemen of Council it was the unanimous Opinion that as the Enemy's Strength is continually increasing and the Nabob's Affairs at Trichenopoly seem daily to be growing worse & worse, there is no other Method to be pursued than an Accommodation with the Dalloway and to enforce this Opinion the more it was thought proper to write the Major the following General Letter vizt.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR.

Sir

The President communicated to us your Letter of the 25th.

Though we had given Directions to the Deputy Governour &ca. Council of Fort St. David to land the Recruits yet it unluckily happens that not one of the Ships have touch'd there, you may depend upon our Draughting as many Men & Officers as possible and we wish they could arrive with you in any tolerable time but from

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

the Experience of a Company's Sloop who sail'd from hence the 10th. Ultimo and is no further than Sadrass, we are apprehensive of the Contrary, we mention this that you may concert your Measures accordingly.

After mature Consideration we are of Opinion that the Affairs of 15, 16, 20, 27, 38, 49, 50, 52 (the Nabob) require your particular Attention, the only Question is whether 69, 71, 73, 100, 102, 104 (Distress and Want of Money) can be demolish'd so as never to raise his Head again by 100, 20, 49, 104, 111, 119 (the Nabob) our Opinion is, not, it is but reasonable some Metho[d] of Attack should be pointed out but we see no other than the 11th. (i.e. General Letter of the 11th. May) if he does not concur in this we think it may with Justice be ask'd him whether he chuses to let the Enemy fall upon him defenceless which in reality will be his Condition, or will make use of such measures as present themselves, in short one or the other seems absolutely necessary & that before it is too late, we are assur'd of your utm[ost] Endeavours to bring this to an Issue as soon as possible and acquaint us with your Success, we really think it must be done, and our Opinion is founded on more Reasons than one, for besides what is already mention'd, if after 99, 100, 106, 107, 109, 111, 113, 128, 104, 79, 81, 96 (Officers & Military have joined [you)] 109, 115, 117, 121, 90, 80, 28, 34, 49, 52 (the Nabob and You) [should] meet with such a lucky Affair as 59, 69, 63, 74 (the French) [did] at 50, 52, 56, 59 (Bawoor— i: e: a total Defeat) which is [no] way improbable considering 94, 82, 73, 63, 55, 34, 18, 11, 16, 3, [43] (the French at Trichenopoly) mends in point of Health and Vigour daily, & as this Season of the Year agrees perfectly wi[th] his Constitution, there is no doubt but it will continue to increase so as to enable him to attend his Affairs with greater Assiduity the Consequence would probably bring about a total Breach & Disunion between 34, 99, 49, 52, 28, 38, 41, 43, 27, 20, 18, 11, 5, 4, 3 (the Nabob, Trichenopoly & Arcot) and all his Friends in those parts, we therefore cannot too frequently repeat that we not only think it adviseable but absolutely necessary the 76, 79, 82, 85 (Quarrel) should be totally extirpated, and the best way to do this is to bring about the Marriage (i: e: Treaty) frequently hinted at, 99, 111, 80, 49, 28 (the Nabob) pretending not to like the Bride is ridiculous, the Affections should always give way to State Policy and therefore a Categorical Answer should be demanded of him; if upon this he could resolve to do violence to his Inclinations, perhaps a Difficulty may still arise, the Austerity of Parents you know is often very great and 111, 74, 63, 55 (the French) is of this Nature, has great Interest and may at least protract if not prevent the Match, and we are apt to think this is the Case as her Friend (i: e: the Mysore Vakeel) in whom She places great Confidence assur'd us it would be agreeable, what other Obstacle then can there be? You will be best able to judge whether this is so or not, and if you think it is let 41, 11, 64, 49, 50, 74 (the Nabob) but concur, and we hope if the Affair be refer'd here, we shall soon be able to settle the Point. If you should differ from us in Opinion in the whole or Part, we should be very glad of your Sentiments what other Step can be taken. Inclos'd is the Letter to the Nabob which was not finish'd last Night.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants. Thos. Saun[ders,] Chas. Boddam — Henry Powney — A[r]. Wynch—[John] Smith — Chas. Bourchier

Fort St. George
[4th] July 1753.

Tuesday the 10th.

At a Consultation *Present*

Thomas Saunders Esq[r]. Gov[r]. Presid[t].
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

The Country and Military Correspondence read, the material Contents are to the following Effect

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

Two Letters from Balazarow wherein he acknowledges the Receipt of the Presidents and says tha[t] Kisnajee Punt (our Vakeel) had acquainted him that we we[re] desirous he should send an Army to assist Nabob Anaverdee Cawn and protect Trichenopoly; that his Intentions were [to] have done so after settling his Affairs at Syringapata[m,] in the mean time receiving Advice that the Pattans we[re on] their March towards Delhy it oblig'd him to return to [his] own Country, that however he would certainly come af[ter] the Monsoon and in Conjunction with us settle the Car[nateck] Country, he further says he had discours'd with our Vakeel on that Subject, and refers us to him for what pass'd [on that] Occasion

Kisnagee Punt (our Vakeel to Ba[laza]row) writes that in a Conference with Balazarow havi[ng] represented to him the Situation of Affairs in these Parts and desir'd he would send an Army to settle them, he [re]ply'd to the same Effect as abovemention'd and added [that] when he was at Variance with Salabat Jung, M^{r}· Buss[y] the French Officer became a Mediator and reconcil'd them by which he gain'd his Friendship and as the French at Pondicherry seem to act agreeable to him, he cannot in justice injure them on a sudden therefore twould be improper for him to send an Army, but must come himself; He further said that when Salabat Jung through M^{r}· Bussy's Interest had granted Chunda's Son a Saned for Arcot & Trichenopoly he interpos'd in favour of Mahomed Ally, in consequence whereof it was agreed between him & M^{r}· Bussy in the Presence of Salabat Jung, that Mahomed Ally Cawn should have the Government of the Trichenopoly and Chunda's Son that of the Arcot Country; That he had resolv'd to come and settle them in their respective Governments accordingly when he was oblig'd to return to his own Country, and that untill he could come into these parts after the Monsoon he strongly recommended to the English by all means to preserve the Fort of Trichenopoly, to assist Mahomed Ally Cawn and obtain for him from Salabat Jung a fresh Saned for the Government of Arcot & Trichenopoly, which will be a Sanction to him for espousing the Nabob's Cause and justify him with the Opposite Party if they should urge their Friendship.

From Sydoo Lascar Cawn, He acknowledges the Receipt of the President's Letter of Congratulation on his being appointed Duan to Salabat Jung and says that Prince is determin'd to settle the Affairs of the Province and extirpate the Enemy, and that a Scheme is on foot whereby they will meet their Deserts, that in regard to the President's Hint concerning Assistance to be given to the lawful Person Salabat Jung has the same thing in view, exhorting us to continue firm in his (Salabat Jung's) Interest as we have already given Instances of our Duty.

A Letter from Washadava Punt (our Private Agent in Salabat Jung's Camp) advises that Salabat Jung was arriv'd at Aurungabad and had with him 100 French and 1000 seapo[ys] the rest of the French were sent to Golcondah. That all the Moratta Troops were dismiss'd and gone into Winter Quarters that Sydoo Lascar Cawn has the entire Management of Affairs. That a Letter said to come from the President was deliver'd to Salabat Jung, who, as he heard, order'd a Friendly Answer to be return'd, and adds that he is inform'd it is intended to send a Saned to Mahomed Ally Cawn for the Arcot Country.

Letters from the Nabob and King of Tanjour contain nothing but a Repetition of what they already wrote several Times; And

A Letter from the King of Cuddah wherein he says that relying on our Friendship he has order'd his Ship to call here in her way to Bengal and desires a Letter may be wrote to the Gentlemen there to give the Noquedah all possible Dispatch and Assistance.

Draughts of Letters to the Nabob and King of Tanjour are now read and approv'd.

In that to the Nabob the President lays before him the desperate Situation of his Affairs in general and particularly that whatever good Intention Balazarow may have, nothing can be expected from him at present as his own Affairs require his Presence at home that the Enemy are powerful and without Horse we cannot look

——FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.——

them in the Face; but if this cannot be done nor Mon[ey] rais'd, the Consequence must be ruin to prevent which a Peace with the Daloway and Moraree seems absolutely necessary desiring he will consult with Major Lawrence.

In the Letter to the King of Tanjour he is acquainted that there seems but two Measures that can be pursued, either to fight the Enemy or accommodate Matters. If the former be resolv'd on he should lose no Time in joining and exerting himself to the utmost and the Major will be reinforc'd with Men from hence.

The Board having maturely consider'd the foregoing Letters are by the Contents of those from Balazarow and our Vakeel confirm'd in their former Opinion that no Dependence can be plac'd on his Services and even that there is too much reason to apprehend he may incline to the French Interest from what pass'd between him and our Vakeel in the Conference where he mentions the Reconciliation between him and Salabat Jung through the Mediation of Mons. Bussy and his Agreement with them to place Mahomed Ally Cawn in the Government of Trichenopoly and Chunda's son in that of the Arcot Country, a design which should Balazarow be really inclin'd to favour or by force of Money (which to him is irresistible) be prevail'd on to adopt and support, the Grand Point the Company have been so long labouring to gain will at once be utterly snatch'd from their View. Their Investment which is wholly made in the Arcot Province will in that Case fall entirely under the Power of the French as the Management of that Province will be in the hands of their Friend or rather Creature, whilst very few if any Advantages can be drawn from the Friendship or Assistance of Mahomed Ally Cawn in his too distant Government of Trichenopoly. And this Plan seems so much the more dangerous as with respect to the Contending Parties Mahomed Ally & Chunda, it bears the Appearance of a Probable and reasonable one and the readiest Method of settling the Country in peace though in effect this has all along been the Object M^r. Dupliex has constantly kept in prospect in this part of the Province. In regard to the Letter from Sydoo Lascar Cawn, it is much to be doubted whether it be genuine or not for it is observable that whenever the Nabob's Affairs have been involv'd in the greatest Perplexity, Letters of this Kind have been more frequent than at other Times; but even if it were really wrote by Sydoo Lascar Cawn (whether he be overawed by the French, or whatever other Motives prevail) the cautious, if not evasive, manner in which it is worded (the French and Mahomed Ally Cawn not being mention'd but "the Wicked Enemy" and the "Lawful Person") contrary to the Eastern Custom of lavishing Promises & Professions of Friendship, is a sufficient Reason for not building any hopes on it. These being the unanimous Sentiments of the Board and the Steps necessary to be taken thereon being also consider'd, they are further of Opinion that if it were possible to preserve both the Trichenopoly & Arcot Provinces to the Nabob it would undoubtedly be the Company's Interest to do so, but that the attempting it under his present distress'd Circumstances and unfavourable Prospects will be exposing both to the imminent Danger either of falling into the Enemy's Hands or of undergoing the aforemention'd Division, an Alternative almost as disadvantagious to the Company; whilst on the other Hand could Matters be accommodated with the Daloway the Company might probably recover the large Sum of Money they have disburs'd on the Nabob's Account, our Forces might wholly be drawn off to act in the Arcot Country where they might be able to make a long Stand and be more within reach to protect our own settlements in case of need. Upon the whole therefore it is Resolv'd that the Plan so frequently deliberated on and as often confirm'd, namely, that of treating with the Daloway on the Terms propos'd in the General Letter to Mess^rs. Palk & Lawrence dated 11^th. May, is the only one that can be pursued at present with any Probability of Success unless the fear of it's being brought to a Conclusion should at length determine the King of Tanjour to assist with his whole Force and heartily espouse the Nabob's Cause and likewise oblige the latter to think of some means of supporting the heavy Charge of the War which seems improbable.

In a Letter from M^r. Palk to M^r. Starke at Fort S^t. David, dated Tanjour, 29 June is the following Paragraph "The enclos'd Duplicate came in just now and with it a "Report that may be credited."—"The Nabob has obtain'd a Victory over the

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

" Daloway in which the Enemy are said to have lost three Guns, one Mortar, a great " deal of Ammunition & 400 Stand of Arms, that Ballapa, Morarow's Commander " was kill'd and the Hircars say two Officers, *Fringees* taken Prisoners.

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes that on certain Intelligence of the Enemy's Approach, he proposes to withdraw the Detachments from Covrepauk, Muslepauk & Timmery.*

* *Vide* on 25 June

A Bill of Exchange for three thousand (3000) Pag^{s} and eight thousand (8000) Arcot Rupees drawn by Captain Dalton being now laid before the Board together with a Letter advising that the same is for the Nabobs Account to pay Seapoys and other necessary Disbursements at Trichinopoly, it is Agreed that the same be accepted and paid when due and that Captain Dalton be directed to apply it to that and no other use for that nothing but material Expences will be allow'd in his Account out of the Money advanc'd the Nabob by the Company.

The President acquaints the Board that the King of Tanjour's Vakeel being in want of some money to defray his necessary Expences here has desir'd an Advance of twelve hundred Pagodas for which he offers a Draught on the King his Master Agreed that the same be paid him whenever he shall apply for it

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS.
CHA^{S}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{S} BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 16th

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}. GOV^{R}. PRESID^{T}.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

CHARLES BOURCHIER

General Letter from Richard Starke Esq^{r}. read viz^{t}.

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.

PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOUR &^{CA}. COUNCIL OF
FORT S^{T}. GEORGE

Honble Sir & Sirs

Inclos'd is a letter from M^{r}. Lawrence to the President, one from Captain Dalton to M^{r}. Lawrence and Copy of one from M^{r}. Lawrence to me wherein as he hopes that I will not wait for an order to send Ammunition ready made up I am preparing the same to go by Boats to Devecotah and in consequence of what he mentions regarding me in his Address to the President shall send in a Day or two a Detachment from hence consisting of 134 Military, 9 of the Train and 500 Seapoys with 2 Field Pieces commanded by Lieut^{t}. Repingt[on] to Devecotah with Orders to M^{r}. Dawson to reinforce him with as many Men as he can spare; These Steps I hope Gent[lemen] will meet your Approbation.

M^{r}. Lawrence in his Letter to the President mentions that the Nabob and King of Tanjour are averse to the delivering up of Trichenopoly if so they ought in my Opinion to declare immediately whether they can support the Charges of this expensive

——FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.——

War; if not, nothing remains to be done but to satisfy the King of Mysore and make him an Ally. The keeping as few Garrisons as possible I am of Opinion is righ[t] I am with the greatest Respect, Hon'ble Sir and Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Servant

RICH^{D}. STARKE

Fort S^{t}. David
12 July 1753.

The Camp Correspondence read as follows.

Honble Sir Tanjour 29 June 1753.

M^{r}. Cooke's Packet to the Major came in and was forwarded early this morning, as I imagin'd it might contain a Letter for me I took the Liberty to open it and sent it on with an Apology and the following Letter to Major Lawrence.

"I have a Letter from Governour Saunders in which he recommends the "Substance of the General Letter of the 11th. and thinks great Advantages may accrue "from it, to which I shall only say in answer that if you approve of of it another "Attempt shall be made.

"I have this day spent some Hours with the King, he recommends strongly "16, 26, 106—78, 88, begs of all things it may be brought about, he will in that "Case 21: 41: 81, he is confounded at the Report of 121, 68 from 43, 48, 50, "desires me over & over again to recommend a close Correspondence & hopes the "Distance will not be great concluding that 21, 41, 51 will be in a Blaze, Monagee "was with him and in Spirits.

"I sent you a Hircarra yesterday who return'd frighten'd with the news of "Harrison's being routed and oblig'd to retreat from Mollampettah to Kirinoor "with the Loss of a large Quantity of Paddy which fell into the Enemy's Hands, "who came with Horse and Foot & one Gun.

The above is in some measure an answer to your favour, I really believe there is no Danger here of 23 22 24 25, the Number 11 has always been my Favourite could it be brought about handsomely; if you are still of that Opinion suppose you writ to 40 41, 45, 46, 48 and gave it an Opening he does not much relish 0 35 121—45, 48, 49, 50 is of the same Opinion with his Friend at 28, 38, 78 but he is very conformable and all things consider'd behaves well

Side Mucdoon the Nabob's Vakeel is just come in with a Letter from his Master, he read it faster than my Pen would run but imperfect as it is I will give all I could save of it

Anaverdy Cawn to Sidé Mucdoom

"Trichenopoly 27 June. This Day God Almighty gave me a great Victory, "100 English Seapoys being posted on a Rock near Bengar Coonda to cover the "Provisions from Tondaman's Country, The whole Mysore Army with the French "and Ballapa the adopted Son & Commander of Morarow's Horse came and surrounded "the said Rock early in the Morning

"Major Lawrence with his & my Army and the Tanjour Horse march'd to "the Relief of it. The English began the Attack and fell on the Enemy like Light- "ning; The French found it too warm and retreated after some time and Loss under "Cover of the Cavalry leaving three Guns, 1 Mortar, 4 Carts of Ammunition & 400 "Stands of Arms on the Ground, many Horses were kill'd and taken

"After this their whole Black Army made a Shew of attacking mine and that "very resolutely but after losing 100 Horse they dropt their Heads and rode off in "disorder

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

" Nandi Rauze's Dependence has hitherto been in his Friends from Pondi-
" cherry, what will he do now when he find[s] they desert him so abruptly. Among
" the rest Ballapa's Corps was left on the Ground, we sent it in a Palankeen to their
" Camp this being done in a hurry is the Reason I am not more particular.

What can I say more.

The above is the Consequence of the constant Fire I mention'd to you the 27th. I must now make the same Excuse with the Nabob as I would not detain the Hircara who only brings a Duplicate of the Major's last. I expect every Minute his Account of this Action which shall be forwarded expeditiously. With the greatest Respect

I am Honble Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Robt. Palk.

The Danes are expected in a few days to visit the King, very lately Morarow was at Verdachilum from whence he had sent to Wolconda

Sir No. 26 Trichenopoly June 27th. 1753.

Yesterday the Enemy attack'd one of our Advanc'd Posts, which being defended only by Seapoys they carried before we could get up to their Assistance; Upon my marching out on the Plain their whole Army did the same and a general Action ensued in which the Nabob's Troops were lucky enough to retake the Post and repuls'd the Enemy who went off in such Confusion that they left two Pieces of Cannon and a Hautbitz behind them likewise their kill'd and wounded amongst whom we found Bollapah, Moraree's Nephew who commanded all the Morattas now with the Daloway; he was shot dead however as these People make a great Point of burying Men of his Rank in their own Manner, I sent him to their Camp in one of our own Palankeens, which Bollogyapa, the next Officer to him, seem'd vastly thankful for.

Their Loss was very considerable both in Men and Horses, it must certainly give the Dalloway a strange Idea of his European Ally for though back'd by so numerous an Army they behav'd in a most dastardly Manner

I shall in a very few days 67, 68, 69, 50, 51 we are at present but badly stock'd with 105, 106, 107, 76, 77—You'll please to regulate our Supplies in that Article. If we had had but a Body of tolerable Horse with us, this last Affair had been decisive.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

Sir No. 27.

I have three of your Letters unanswer'd those of the 13th. & 21st. which I did not receive 'till the 29th. and another of the 29th. which is just come in.

This additional 10000 will make the Cash hold out some time, after that Buckunjee Cossedos will supply us.

It is very true that the Gentleman you mention has a sincere Friendship for part of the 11th. as well as that his Friends have an utter Aversion to some other Parts of it.

40, 41, 45, 49, 50 struggles hard with 70, 71, 72 but yet he thinks with his Friends Assistance 41, 51, 61 still to carry his Point, neither he nor the former express any Sort of Esteem for the 11th. but conclude that the old way is best. I

——FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.——

have explain'd in the best manner I am able the close Alliance between 45, 49, 50, 59, 62, 72 & 100, 102, 104, 106. He is very sensible of it but still says that 38, 40, 43, 45, 87, 84 is all his Dependence.

I have forwarded your Letter to the Daloway it has had no Effect; he still trifles, something good was propos'd by a third Hand, but when consented to, no answer.

The French have seen their error in keeping Garrisons and are therefore destroying those they have taken except Chellumbrum which no doubt they keep to distress us and will probably collect their Force in a Body with a view of being strong in the field; We must do the same or we shall feel the bad Consequences, 48, 49, 50, 51, 59, 60, 61, 62 have agreed 90, 91, 92, 93, 45, 46, 48 but then 86, 87, 88 will immediately, it is my Opinion 55 57 59 will assist with his utmost of 106, 107, 108, 112, 113 & something ready contriv'd to relieve 75, 76, 77, [Let] this be done instantly —M^{r}· Dawson is very diligent.

I am glad the several Commissions are deliver'd the Gentlemen, to whom I beg my Compliments, I should be glad to see them soon M^{r}· Greig had a Commission offer'd him when last in the Country, He is well recommended and the sooner you prefer him the better.

For other Particulars I must refer you to M^{r}· Palk who will wait on you on Purpose the moment we have dispatch'd some Affairs here.

I must now tell you that it will be necessary that some Persons of Council either at Madras or Fort S^{t}· David should be sent to manage the 11th for I find that my other Duty in the Field is full enough, if not too much for me to think of and that I am not able to undergo the Fatigue.

I ought to mention, because it is due to their Merit, the extraordinary gallant Behaviour of Captains Kilpatrick and Kirk who forc'd up a Rock against four Times their Number of Europeans and in the face of 2000 Seapoys and dislodg'd them & attack'd them in Flank, whilst we did the same in Front, a more extraordinary Action, I have never yet seen in short all the Officers and People in general behav'd very bravely.

I am Sir

Camp near Tanjour
7th· July 1753.

Your most humble and
most Obedient Servant

STRINGER LAWRENCE

I inclose you a Letter just now receiv'd from Captain Dalton.

Resolv'd that a Detachment of Military amounting (as by a return now deliver'd in) to 237 Men, Officers included be embark'd on the Portfield as soon as She can be ready to receive them for Fort S^{t}· David to reinforce the Army under the Command of Major Lawrence and that a General Letter be wrote to the Deputy Governour and Council there directing them on the Arrival of that Ship to land the Men who are to proceed to join the Army by such Routs as may expose them as little as possible to the Danger of being intercepted by the Enemy.

The President lays before the Board a Letter to him from George Pigot Esq^{r}· Chief of Vizagapatam inclosing Accounts of Sundries supplied M^{r}· Hunter for his Expedition to the Negrais, also the Charges of repairing the Cuddalore Sloop and Sundry Necessaries supplied the Fortune Sloop, Order'd that the Accountant do carry the same to their Proper Heads in the General Books.

THO^{s}· SAUNDERS
CHA^{s}· BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}· WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{s}· BOURCHIER

——— *FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——— Monday the 23rd

At a Consultation *Present*

Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov[r]. Presiden[t]
Charles Boddam, Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Charles Bourchier

The President lays before the Board the Country and Military Correspondence.

Amongst the former are two Letters from the King of Tanjour giving the strongest Assurances of his Atta[ch]ment to the Nabob's Cause which he says he shall consider as his own and use his utmost Efforts to oppose the Enemy and as a Proof of this he has already order'd Monagee with two thousan[d] Horse to join our Forces under Major Lawrence desiring that we will send a strong Detachment of Europeans to reinforce the Army immediately that the Enemy may be brought to reason without delay whose Wealth will enable them to suppor[t] the Charges of the War much longer than the Nabob and his Allies.

A Letter from the Nabob confirms the King of Tanjour's Advices, and that he propos'd beginning his March back to Trichenopoly the 12[th]. Instant, he seems to place a great Dependence on the King of Tanjour but is silent on the main Point the President wrote to him about, namely by what means he proposes to support the Charges of the War

Letter from M[r]. Palk as follows.

Honble Sir Devecotah 14 July 1753.

I left the Major last Wednesday Evening at his Camp six Miles on the other Side of Tanjour proposing to march in conjunction with Monogee and the King's Forces the next morning to Kirinoor a Town in Tondaman's Country about 16 Miles from Trichenopoly, there to wait the Junction of Mundamia from Madera, the Moravar and Tondaman and I believe the Detachment expected from S[t]. David, which I am just advis'd of as I was geting into the Boat, but as many little Things are wanted in Camp and the Kings People here to assist in carrying them on, I have determin'd to stay 'till to morrow to hasten them which I can do the more effectually as the King sent a Vakeel to accompany me through his Country to procure necessaries.

I am in hopes this will be a fine Reinforcement as they add to it from this Place 37 Europeans, 100 Seapoys and some spare Arms.

I did not receive your favour of the 4[th]. 'till the 12[th] at Combaconum which I shall defer answering till I have the Pleasure of seeing you; Writing affects my Eyes greatly which are not quite recover'd; It is necessary however to inform you that my leaving the Major was by his Desire by Letter some days before his Arrival at Tanjour and which also the King requested who will now join and I hope to some Purpose.

Intelligence is just brought in from Chellumbrum that Morarow has left Trinomely unsuccessfully and that he is now before Polincota a Fort belonging to the Cuddapah Nabob, two days March from Verdachilum.

Inclos'd are the King of Tanjours and the Nabob's Letters and some for Ramarow.

I am with great Respect
Honble Sir,
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Robt. Palk.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq[r].

——FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.——

The President also lays before the Board Draught of a Letter from him to Major Lawrence as follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R.

Sir, Fort S^t. George 23^d. July 1753.

Since I wrote you the 3^d. and a General one of the 4^th. Instant I have receiv'd yours of the 27^th. Ultimo and 7^th. Instant and one from the King of Tanjour wherein he expresse[s] a Warmth for the Nabob's Cause, he mentions the Danes would join him with two hundred men, this is a Puff as I am inform'd the Danish Major with eighty men some Seapoys are paying him a Visit to settle the Negotiation for their building a Fort at Tranquebar, but nothing further

The Nabob writes in his old stile and evades giving any answer on the Subject. I wrote him in short he has not Courage to look into his own Affairs but this is what we must insist on, what wrote you in the General one of the 4[th.] is our Opinion and we think the late Success you met with and the Junction of the King of Tanjour will greatly promote it and we impatiently wait your Opinion, tis to no Purpose for him to amuse us, let us judge what we think reasonable ourselves.

I have wrote the Nabob a short Letter, Copy is inclos'd, also one to the King of Tanjour

Lieut^t. Repington is I hope arriv'd with you, we sent on the Portfield a strong Detachment, the wind has been favourable which gives hopes She may meet with a speedy Passage

I think the first Thing to be done is to throw as large a Quantity of Provisions as possible into Trichenopoly

Inclos'd is a Bill on the King of Tanjour for Pagodas 1200. Captain Daltons for Rupees 8000 & Pagodas 3000 has been accepted and paid, that Gentleman does not think fit to send his Accounts or Returns, please to receive them of him and if upon Perusal you find any needless Charges strike them out, at this Junction 'twould be ungenerous to make the Company a Perquisite.

Two French Ships pass'd by. I hear they have 150 Military for Metchlepatam.

In regard to the 11^th. what seems to be most wanting is 30 33. 45 49. 52 (the Nabob's) Resolution of which we have wrote already very largely.

It is a Pleasure to hear of the Gallant Behaviour of your Officers; My Compliments to them, the Loss of so many Horse at different Times must be very disagreeable to the Enemy, that are not easily replac'd and the Value of them is considerable.

M^r. Palk is arriv'd here and has given me an Account of the Situation of the Nabob's Affairs. I congratulate you on the Success you met with and hope it will continue.

We have by Experience seen that if the English and French were drawn off from the Country Governm^t. they would soon end their own Disputes but while we interfere as each are determin'd to support their Trade the Troubles may not subside many years and 'tis as evident that M^r. Dupliex and we may settle the Province to the mutual Advantage of our Principals, this I shall write M^r. Dupliex, I imagine he will not be inclin'd to it but then it will be known in Europe 'tis his and not our Fault that the Troubles continue.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS.

Which the Board approve.

THO^S. SAUNDERS
CHA^S. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^R. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^S. BOURCHIER.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

Monday the 30th

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRESID^T.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

The President lays before the Boa[rd] the Country & Camp Correspondence, amongst the former are Letters from the Mysore Daloway, the Nabob and the King of Tanjour containing Repetitions of what they have already respectively wrote as observ'd in preceding Consultations and the Nabob a[dvises] that he is on his Return to Trichenopoly with the Major and Monagee and shall halt a few days by the way to assemble all his Forces, that Tondaman has enter'd into a firm Alliance with him, that the King of Tanjour has agreed to send for the Danish Force from Tranquebar to act in Conjunction with him and has promis'd to furnish forty thousand Calams of Grain for Trichenopoly and that by the joint Consent of all Parties Letters have been sent to the Phousdar of Madera, Moravar & Nalocotey to come to the Assistance of the Circar

And the President acquaints the Board the Nabob's Vakeel in his Master's Name had desir'd him to send for the Mysore Vakeel to discourse with him on the Subject of his Masters Demands and hear what Proposals he had to offer.

Draughts of Letters in answer to the foregoing are also read and approv'd.

In that to the Daloway the President offers himself as Mediator in the Difference with the Nabob, desires he will empower his Vakeel to treat on that Subject and to signify by Letter to the President that he will abide by any Agreement his Vakeel shall enter into.

That to the Nabob is to advise him to come to Terms of Friendship with the Daloway and the President acquaints him that in consequence of his Desire he will speak with the Mysore Vakeel, desiring to be inform'd whether he has enter'd into any and what particular Agreement with the King of Tanjour, Tondaman and the Poligars who are to join him that so we may not again be engag'd in Disputes as with the Daloway by his Secret Engagement. that as to the Danes they are only settling their own Affairs with the King of Tanjour and nothing can be expected from them. That he, the President, is inform'd Abdul Bob Cawn has stopp'd 50000 Rup^s. of the Tripoty Money, desiring an Order for Payment of it immediately and that he will direct Sumpetrow to settle the Company's Accounts.

That to the King of Tanjour is only to acquaint him that according to his Desire a Reinforcement of Europeans has been sent and desiring to know whether the Nabob has made any particular Agreement with him and what.

Draught of a Letter from the President to Sydoo Lascar Cawn in answer to one receiv'd from him some time ago is also rea[d] assuring him that he (the President) has for three years past and shall continue to support the Circar against a certain People who hesitate at doing nothing that can compass their wicked Designs and are endeavouring by assisting the Enemies of the Circar to ge[t] this Province for themselves in which should they succeed their Intentions are to get a large Body of Troops and conquer other [*a word lost*] desiring he will write in what manner he would have us act.

The following is the only Letter receiv'd from Major Lawrence viz^t.

Sir

N^o. 28.

I receiv'd the inclos'd Letter from the Daloway yesterday which I took the Liberty of opening that we might not clash with each other but find nothing but trifling.

Since M^r. Palk's departure your Letter the 4^th. is come to hand, but as the Hircaras are so liable to be intercepted don't chuse to answer particularly to it but must re[fer] you to M^r. Palk who is well acquainted with the heads you wrote on.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1753.*——

The Nabob, Monojee and I are to meet Tondaman this Evening

I am Sir Your most Obedient humble Servant

STRINGER LAWRENCE

Conandore Cohill
16 July 1753.

To the Honble Thos. Saunders Esqr.

Draught of a letter from the President intended [to] be sent the Major is read and approv'd as follows

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esqr.

Sir Fort St. George 31 July 1753.

Your last was the 16th. Instant, I forgot to mention in mine of the 22d. that Ensigns Commissions were drawn out for Messs. Greig and Black.

Lieut. Repington with his Detachment are I hope with you and as the Portfield convey'd that under the Command of Captain Ridge to Devecotah I hope he will also soon join you.

The Winchelsea is arriv'd at Fort St. David her stay there I suppose will be short so that we may daily expect Colonel Scot here.

The King of Tanjour's Report concerning the Danes joining him will I believe turn out as expected, only an Embassy to settle their own Affairs, he seems to be uneasy at Moraree's crossing the Coleroon, I have told him you will concert your Measures accordingly.

I have receiv'd the Daloway's letter, as you are acquainted with the Contents there is no Occasion for Repetition, as the Nabob has desir'd me to talk with the Mysore Vakeel, I have wrote the Daloway to give him Powers.

The Nabob writes me nothing particular as I have beforemention'd, I think he ought to come to some Resolution, we shall be very glad of your Opinion on what wrote on that Subject.

Inclos'd come Copies of Letters to the King of Tanjour, Daloway and Nabob.

Ships Egmont and Elizabeth are arriv'd here, the Company have sent out a new Charter which engrosses our Time at present, as soon as we have put it in motion shall consider of what Mr. Palk mention'd concerning Courts Martial.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOS. SAUNDERS.

By letters from Lieut. Repington We are info[rmed] that he is on his march with the Detachment under his Comman[d] to Tanjour whither the Major has order'd him to proceed and to be from thence conducted to Camp by the Kings Hircaras

Although it is very evident from the whole Teno[ur] of Mr. Dupliex's Conduct that his Views are to acquire the Province and consequently that it is not very probable he will suffer himse[lf] to be diverted from his Plan by Treaty, yet that it may appear to our and his Superiours we have always been ready and desirous of restoring Peace to the Country, the President proposes to the Consideration of the Board whether it may not be adviseable to write Mr. Dupliex a short Letter acquainting him that it appears to us a Matter beyond Doubt that whilst our Respecti[ve] Companies support different Parties in the Province their Disputes can never terminate, that tho' neither of us have any Right to conclude we may yet so

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

far influence as to establish Tranquillity on Terms advantagious to both Companies and that we are ready to concur in any proper Measures for that Purpose, which the Board approve as they do of the Draught of a Letter to that Effect now read, as enter'd in the French Correspondence N°. 4.

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{S}. BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Saturday the 4th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}. GOV^{R}. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

General Letter from the Deputy Governour & Council of Fort S^{t}. David read as follows

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.
PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOUR &C^{A}. COUNCIL OF
FORT S^{T}. GEORGE

Honble Sir & Sirs

In our Letter of the 27th. Instant we acquainted you of a Report we had of the Enemys being on this Side the Coleroon with intent to proceed and besiege Devecotah; the Deputy Governour has laid before us this morning two Letters he has since receiv'd from M^{r}. Dawson, in one of which he is appriz'd by a Gentleman at Porto novo that their Design is certainly so, the other contains a Return of the Garrison of Devecotah as likewise of the Enemy's Strength. They were preparing Rafts for crossing the River, we therefore expect daily to hear of their further Undertakings. We take Leave to refer this Circumstance to your Consideration and acquaint you that we cannot take upon us to give the Detachment Orders to march until we have receiv'd your positive Directions, for as the Enemy's Body of Horse will doubtless be immediately after them, we apprehend it would be attended with inevitable Danger. We are sending away the Dragon Sloop to Devecotah with such Arms and Stores as we can Supply M^{r}. Dawson with and as he has acquainted us he can raise one hundred Seapoys we have recommended him so to do, if he finds the Defence of his Garrison requires it. All the Arms we had in Store for Seapoys being serv'd out, we request a further Supply of one thousand, five hundred Stand of which as soon as possible.

We are with Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant

RICH^{D}. STARKE
THOMAS COOKE
DAWSONNE DRAKE
ROBERT SLOPER
PETER S^{T}. PAUL

Fort S^{t}. David
30th. July 1753.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

Copy of the Letters above refer'd to

Worsh[ll.] Sir Devecotah 27 July 1753.

I am favour'd with your letter of the 25[th.] accompanying a Packet for Major Lawrence.

The Enemy are still encamp'd close on the other Side of the Coleroon River and have several Boats but not as yet made any Attempt to cross over; tho' it's probable they will after this new Detachment sets forward for Trichenopoly if it is only to cut off the Communication between that Place and this. It is reported their Force consists of about 300 Europ[e]ans and Coffreys, 10 Guns, 2000 Seapoys, & 2000 Moratta Horse I have continually Hircaras in their Camp but can get no Intelligence to be depended on, Some say their Design is to come here, others to Arcot or Sheally should it be the former, as many Seapoys as you can get let me have with some spare Arm[s] would be very serviceable likewise two or three Good Gunners we not having one that knows how to point a Gun.

I am with Regard
Worsh[ll.] Sir
Your most Obedient Serv[t.]
GEORGE DAWSON

To Richard Starke Esq[r.]

Inclos'd is a Return of our Garrison by which you will be better able to judge of our Force.

Worsh[ll.] Sir

The Enemy have to day been preparing for crossing the River by felling Trees to make Cattemarans &c[a.]

A Gentleman from Porto novo writes me their Design is certainly to besiege this Place and that they are daily receiving Stores from Pondicherry for that Purpose, he also acquaints me a Sloop is set out from that Place with two twenty four Pounders, & is hourly expected.

The Portfield has been very near our Road but driven back by strong Freshes that run from the Mouth of the Rivers. I am in hopes she will be able to reach in tomorrow morning and land your Detachment. I have got Cooleys and Bullocks ready for their march to the Major and could (had I arms) raise one hundred Seapoys.

Please to favour me with your Opinion of the Enemy's Design, as it will be of great Service to me in concerting measures for their Reception.

I am Worsh[ll.] Sir Your most Obedient Servant
GEORGE DAWSON.

Devecotah
28 July 1753

To Richard Starke Esq[r.]

The President lays before the Board two Letters from M[r.] Starke, in one he advises the Arrival of the Portfield at Devecotah and that Captain Ridge's Detachment had been safely landed there, in the other he mentions that he is inform'd the Enemy do not seem to have any Design upon Deve Cotah by their separating and going some to Worriarpollam, others to Trinomallee and that it is reported their Design is to go to the latter

Upon which Advices the Board are of Opinion that as it is uncertain what may be the Enemy's particular Design though in general there is Reason to believe their Intention is to harrass & plunder the Tanjour Country & perhaps to make some Attempt upon Devecotah, if the Succeeding against that Place should appear

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

practicable to them, of all which Circumstances Major Lawrence's Vicinity must enable him to form a much better Judgment than it is possible to do here it is Agreed that the Disposal of Captain Ridge's Detachmt. be refer'd entirely to him and a Letter from the President to that Effect is now read and approv'd, copy whereof follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esqr.

Sir Fort St. George 4th August 1753

The last Advices we have receiv'd from you are the 16th. Ultimo. Mr. Starke writes from St. David that Moraree with a Party of the French were on the Banks of the Coleroon, suppos'd with a Design to cross it and harrass the King of Tanjour's Country and that the Detachment under the Command of Captain Ridge were landed from the Portfield at Devecotah, therefore we have thought it necessary that you be consulted whether best for that Command to join you or whether by adding a Body of Horse to them they would not prevent the Incursions of Moraree and secure the King of Tanjour to the Nabob's Interest

The Elizabeth is arriv'd here.

Inclos'd is a short Letter to the Nabob and one to the King of Tanjour which if you approve, please to deliver.

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

The Presidt. also lays before the Board two Letters from him, one to the Nabob, the other to the King of Tanjour acquainting them that being inform'd Mr. Dupliex's Conduct is disapprov'd by his Superiours in Europe, he judg'd this a proper time to bring about a Peace and had therefore wrote to him on that Subject.

THOs. SAUNDERS.
CHAs. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH.
JOHN SMITH
CHs. BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 13th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esqr. Govr. Presidt.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the Country & Military Correspondence.

Letters from the Nabob, King of Tanjour Abdul Bob Cawn and Washadava Punt in Salabat Jung's Camp are read; the three former contain nothing new, the Latter gives an Account that Salabat Jung having under Pretence of Devotion carried his three Brothers, Nizam Ally, Sydoo Sheriff, and Mir Mogul with him to a Place where his Relations are interr'd, in his Return halted at Douletabad and having perswaded them to go into the Fort to take a View of it caus'd them to be shut up and confin'd there, but afterwards releas'd the youngest Mir Mogul; that it was reported he was mov'd to this by a Suspicion that some Mischief was plotting between Nizam Ally and Mons Datore the French Officer, over whose House at his Return he plac'd a Guard. That Mons Bussy was arriv'd at Golconda from Metchlepatam intending to go to Salabat Jung who sent him word it would be time enough after the Monsoon. That Things still continue in great Confusion at Delly and that the Morattas had taken Guzarat.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

The Letters from Major Lawrence receiv'd since last Consultation are as follow viz^{t}.

N^{o}. 29.

Sir

We are now join'd by the King of Tanjour and Tondaman's Forces, the former express great Willingness to move which I hope to do shortly as Repington will be here; I have sent to hasten his March 120 Lascars, 60 Cooleys & 20 Mamooty Men who will soon extricate him out of the Difficulties he meets in crossing the Rivers, when he arrives I shall immediately march & finish our Business in Trichenopoly with all the Expedition that is possible and if any thing extraordinary occurs in the mean time you shall be acquainted with it.

I am Sir

Your most humble Servant

S. LAWRENCE

Conandore Cohil
27 July 1753.

THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ.

Sir N^{o}. 30. Camp at Conandore Cohil Aug^{t}. 1. 1753.

M^{r}. Repington join'd me with his Detachment this morning. I propose to give the People one days Rest and then march towards Trichenopoly.

I have not been favour'd with any of your Letters since the 4th of July. As M^{r} Palk will acquaint you with a perfect State of our Affairs I think it needless to enlarge here. I shall always endeavour for the best and will give you Notice of every Occurrence when it can safely be entrusted in a Letter. The Enemy are in their old Ground as I am inform'd.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.

N^{o}. 31.

Sir Camp at Assoor 3^{d} Aug^{t}. 1753.

I was last Night favour'd with your Letter of the 23^{d} July. We march'd here this morning. The Enemy were attacking a Fort about three miles off but retir'd on our Approach and lost some men.

You acknowledge my Letter of the 7th July without taking the least Notice of what I think a material Paragraph in it, That which requests some Gentlemen of the Council may be sent to carry on a Negotiation. I have neither Leisure nor Inclination to enumerate how many times I have represented my Incapacity to transact Business that does not immediately relate to the Command of the Troops. All I have said from Trivedy and other Places is recorded and it will appear you have nominated me to manage Things I had before positively refus'd to meddle in, If any Misfortunes should happen to the Interests of our Honble Masters from this Practice I can no ways be blam'd, but this is a melancholy & a shocking Reflection, Tis my Duty to point out what appears most reasonable to promote the Publick Welfare, I have constantly done it and once more repeat " That as the Gentlemen who now sit " with you in Council have from the Beginning of the War been join'd with you

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

"in the conducting of it, they are most able to negotiate a Peace to Advantage, I "therefore request that two of them may be sent as soon as possible to Tanjour" In regard to myself, my long Absence from the Presidency, my Ignorance of the Several Interests of which I have almost always been kept in the Dark and above every thing my constant Attendance on the Army, a sufficient Employment for all my Attention renders me entirely unfit to act as a Minister. I would never be thought to pretend to more than I know, tis for this Reason I have ever refus'd and now refuse to concern myself in any thing foreign to the Orders I receiv'd when I took the Command, which were to assist the Nabob against all his Enemies. Let me add that I will pay a strict Obedience to any order you think fit to send me for the future, but I beg it may be worded in form and not in Cypher. I hope I have now express'd myself clearly, for God's Sake let us make no more delays but unite in our several Stations to help forward the Common Cause, The Gentlemen of Council have too much Zeal not to offer themselves voluntarily for Tanjour or Trichenopoly if the Publick Good requires it.

I have wrote you that Monojee & Tondaman have join'd the Nabob, which will surely make some Alteration in his Affairs. They all flatly refuse to comply with the 11th, Mr. Palk knows all these Things and I should be glad of his Opinion since you stick to what was said in the General Letter of the 4th July.

We shall endeavour to throw a large Quantity of Provisions into Trichenopoly. Mr. Maunsel has your Bill on the King of Tanjour for Pags. 1200. I shall order Captain Dalton to give in his Accounts which I hope will turn out exact; 'tis not only ungenerous but villainous to make the Company a Perquisite at any time.

As we were in great Want of Ammunition before Repington's Arrival, I was oblig'd to borrow two Candy of fine Powder from the King of Tanjour which I promis'd should be repaid as soon as possible. I must request you'll give Orders about it.

I have sent an Order to the Commanding Officer of the Detachment from Madras to continue at Devecotah as it will be impossible for him to get here in time to answer our Purpose, besides I think he will be of more Use there.

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

The Honble Thomas
Saunders Esqr.

In respect to the Major's last Letter, as he seems to think that some Alteration may be made in the Nabob['s] Affairs by the Junction of Monojee and Tondaman with him, who all refuse to comply with the Proposals of the 11th May and upon this desires Mr Palk's Sentiments since we stick to ours in the General Letter of the 4th It is Agreed that Mr Palk be desir'd to give his Opinion on the following Quæres. viz[t]

Whether he thinks the Nabob has any means of supporting the heavy Expences of the War or of reimbursing the Company the large Sum he already stands indebted to them.

Whether in the Measures propos'd in the Letter of the 11th May for the negotiating a Peace any Alterations or Additions appear to him necessary to be made that may be of more Advantage to the Nabob or his Allies consistent with the Company's Interest, such as may reasonably be propos'd to the Daloway.

Whether the Proposal made by Mr. Lawrence of sending two of the Members of the Board to Tanjour to negotiate a Peace is so essentially necessary since all that appears requisite on that head has been already mention'd in the Letter of the

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

11th May and the Major has been since further wrote the 23d Ultimo as follows. "In regard to the 11th, what seems to be most wanting is the Nabob's Resolution of "which we have already wrote very largely.

Whether Peace is not the best Plan to pursue and in regard to Military Operations whether the properest Measure is not to fling a sufficient Store of Provisions into Trichenopoly and for the Army to march to the Northward.

The Secretary is directed to send the foregoing Particulars to Mr Palk & desire his answer in writing.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly writes that the Mysoreans having taken Possession of Wayconda (which he had been oblig'd to abandon on the Major's March to Tanjour) and encamp'd a Part of their Army under the Walls, he march'd in the Night to attack them and having got within twenty Yards of their Tents undiscover'd, he made a brisk Fire, brought off a good deal of Plunder and retir'd without losing a Man, the next day the Enemy decamp'd. That the French have retreated into Syringam Pagoda and are transporting all their Artillery and Baggage thither, the Morattas have likewise pass'd the River and are gone to the same Place which has disconcerted the Daloway & oblig'd him to quit the Plain, he is now encapm'd about five Miles from the Fort. That Kiroudy Cawn does not furnish one farthing towards defraying the Charges of the Garrison so that the whole now falls upon the Company.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

Monday the 20th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR. GOVR. PRESIDT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the Country and Camp Correspondence, amongst the former is a Letter from Abdul Bob Cawn at Arcot advising that the Velour Phousdar with a Detachment of French Troops and some Forces from Gingee & Chetteput is besieging Trinomely which is already reduc'd to great Distress, desiring a Party of Men may be sent from hence to it's Relief.

In answer whereto the President wrote to him the 18th Instant that he would cheerfully give all the Assistance he is able but that he (Abdul Bob Cawn) puts it out of his Power by receiving & detaining the Rents of those Districts the Nabob has given Orders on for the Company's Debt and even stopping the Tripoty Money, which if he would obtain Assistance he must send immediately.

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes to the same Effect as Abdul Bob Cawn in relation to Trinomely which he is apprehensive will inevitably fall into the Enemy's Hands unless reliev'd from hence, he adds that Part of the Nabob's Forces having been recall'd from Tripoty to attempt the Relief of Trinomely has given Mahmat Camaul an Opportunity to retake the former Place and that Abdul Bob Cawn positively declares unless he is assisted from hence he shall not be able to maintain his own Troops any longer especially if Trinomely should fall as that will put it in the Enemy's Power to destroy the Country all around, and that he thinks the Place might be preserv'd with a few more Men & Leave to employ them.

Which Circumstances being consider'd, the Board are of Opinion that the Men we have now in Garrison here are not more than necessary for the Defence of the Place and therefore that it is not prudent to send out any of them on Detachment,

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

that tho' the Loss of Trinomely may be attended with bad Consequences, the Preservation of Arcot is much more essential, the President is therefore desir'd to write Captain Pigou that we cannot spare any Men from hence that if he thinks the assisting Abdul Bob Cawn with ten or fifteen Men (he advancing for their Expences) will not too much weaken his Garrison and be a means of preserving Trinomely he may do so, acquainting him at the same time that our latest Advices from Fort S^{t}. David say that Morarow with 2000 Horse, as many Seapoys and 300 French had mov'd from Chellumbrum to Verdachilum and that it was doubtful whether his Intentions were not for Trinomely or Arcot; That if this should prove true he must not spare Abdul Bob Cawn any Men as it would only endanger the latter & be of no Service to the former Place.

Captain Lin at Changleput writes that he is advis'd from Sadras that 300 French, 1000 Seapoys and 100 Horse are in motion from Pondicherry & that their Aim is against Changleput but that the Repairs & Alterations he had made in the Fortifications is such an Addition of Strength that with a few Articles he has indented for he thinks the Place tenable against any force the Enemy can bring before it.

Major Lawrence writes as follows.

Sir No. 32. Camp near Trichenopoly 10 Aug^{t}. 1753.

My last Letter to you was from Assoor from whence we march'd to Daloway's Choultry with an Intent to deceive the Enemy and draw their whole Force that way which they very readily gave into. Unfortunately it rain'd for three Nights successively so that I could not put my Design in Execution of going round Herebistron the next Morning, but was oblig'd to take the Opportunity of a fair Afternoon on the 7th to get from amongst the Paddy Fields and to march to a Collery Fort within four Miles of the Sugar Loaf Rock. Some Seapoys and Morattas attack'd our Rear but were presently repuls'd. We halted on the 8th as the Rain continued; In the mean time the Enemy shifted their Ground and seem'd fully determin'd to oppose us by throwing themselves constantly betwixt Us and the Fort; Thus a Battle was absolutely necessary and I made my Disposition for it accordingly by placing the English Forces entire in the Front and Dividing the Allies both Horse & Foot in two Bodies to protect the Rear. In this Order early in the Morning of yesterday we advanc'd directly towards the Sugar Loaf Rock intending to strive at gaining the Enemy's Flank & obliging them to shift their Ground, as we did not doubt but they were strongly situated. When we were within Cannon Shot while they were employed in firing briskly at us, instead of waiting to return it we fil'd off to the left & perceiving that the Golden Rock was only guarded by Seapoys, I order'd M^{r}. Repington with two Platoons and the Front Division of our Seapoys to run and get Possession of it which they luckily effected, tho' the Enemy finding their own Neglect run too as hard as they could, and the Morattas made some desperate Pushes. Here the Cannonade became General and as the Horse almost cover'd the Plain we brought them down in great Quantities by a constant Fire from nine Guns. The Enemy's Europeans gain'd a Bank very near us which cover'd them & play'd upon us with four Pieces of Cannon. On this I march'd with the Battalion to cut off the Communication with their Camp when abandoning their Allies and all together they run away to Alletoor as fast as they could and were expos'd in their Turn to four Guns I left under the Golden Rock which kill'd them many Men. If Monogee's Horse had rode in upon them they might have cut them off, But I must do the Tanjoreans the Justice to acquaint you that they protected the Baggage as they were order'd & kept at a Distance the Morattas which confirms my former Opinion that they are the best Horse in the Country. Our Loss in the Action would have been inconsiderable if M^{r} Kirk who commanded the Grenadiers had not been kill'd; In him the Company has lost a faithful Servant, a brave Officer and a worthy Gentleman; one whom I may say they will find it difficult to equal. As there was no Water at the Golden Rock and the Men were greatly fatigued I did not care to stay there but came to Trichenopoly with

the Provisions, The Enemy could not carry away all their Camp so that our Cooleys are continually bringing in Things from it and the Communication with Tondamans & the Tanjour Country is quite open. We can perceive a few Tents among the Rocks beyond Alletoor where they shall not remain in quiet for any long Time. The Hand of God has been very visible in this Success, in giving us the Advantage over Enemies who outnumber'd us vastly in every particular besides having it in their Power to chuse their own Ground. The Nabob's Affairs seem in a manner retriev'd by it, The King of Tanjour will be firm in his Interest and it is not impossible but the Daloway may be ruin'd as I hear his Conduct is censur'd at Seringapatam & they'll send him no more money. If this will make any Alteration in regard to the 11th I shall be glad of your Opinion and Orders. For my part as I don't hear your Debates in Council my Knowledge of Affairs is too much confin'd to give you my General Sentiments. All our Gentlemen desire their Respects to you.

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr.

The following is an Extract of a Letter from Mr Starke to the President dated the 12th Instant.

"I am glad that the Major concurs with us that it is best to keep the Detach-
"ment under Captain Ridge's Command at Devecotah where they may prevent
"Incursions into the Tanjore Country or be serviceable this way if Occasion requires;
"I wish after advising that neither the Nabob, King of Tanjour nor Tondaman will
"comply with the 11th, he had given his Opinion what Steps would be most advan-
"tagious to take; Peace in my Opinion is to be chose, but how to obtain it without
"the Consent of the aforesaid Persons I know not, you perhaps may hit upon some
"Expedient & be able to bring it about.

Mr. Palk's Answer to the Quæres order'd in last Consultation to be sent him for his Opinion is as follows.

To Mr Secretary Bourchier

Sir

Agreeable to the Directions of the President and Council I very readily offer my Sentiments on the different Articles contain'd in your Letter of yesterday's Date. I only wish I was better qualified to give them on a Subject of this Importance.

In answer to the 1st. The Junction of Monogee & Tondaman may possibly make great Alterations in our Favour, Success at Trichenopoly may oblige the King of Mysore to become more moderate in his Demands; It is on this and Balazarow's Promises, that our Allies have plac'd their Hopes, but as already Balazarow has shewn how little he is to be depended on (to make it doubtful what his Resolutions may be even if he does come) and as the Circumstances of Affairs will alter daily; They no doubt will alter their Measures accordingly & approve of the 11th when they are convinc'd that nothing better can be done though at present they are very averse to the Neighbourhood of so powerful a Prince.

2d. The Nabob has certainly no means of supporting the heavy Expence of the War or even that of his own Family and therefore no hopes can be form'd of his reimbursing the Company, so far from it, their Expences must increase as the whole Garrison of Trichenopoly will for the future make a part of it.

3. I cannot think of any Alterations or Additions to be made to the General Letter of the 11th but what the Major's Good or bad Success will make necessary.

4th. As Major Lawrence declines negotiating with the Daloway, it is certainly necessary that proper Persons should be appointed, unless it could be done at Madras with Vencatrow, which I should think would be most eligible for an Affair

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

of this Consequence cannot be concluded on without the Approbation and Accession of the President and Council, tho' at the same time a sudden Turn of Affairs at Trichenopoly may require a sudden Expedient, in such a Case it may be necessary that some Preliminary should be immediately settled on the Spot.

The Nabob cannot avoid the being determin'd in his Resolutions by the English, he has no other Resource.

5. Peace on all Accounts in my humble Opinion is the best and noblest Plan to be pursued and nothing will contribute more to it than a Quantity of Provisions in the Fort; for when this is effected, Nandirauze, finding his immediate Views obstructed will probably be glad to embrace Terms less hurtful to the Nabob's Interest & Major Lawrence will be at Liberty to march to the Northward before the Monsoon.

But after all, was the Nabob even in quiet Possession of the Province, It is so desolate & ruin'd that a small Time would not enable him to pay off the Company's Loan and the Country will always be liable to fresh Insults, another strong Reason for the Accomplishment of the 11th of May, & yet Trichenopoly is a Place of so much Importance as to be on all Accounts the last Expedient

Fort St. George — I am Sir — Your most Obedient Servant
16th. August 1753. — Robt Palk.

The Board having well weigh'd the present Circumstances of Affairs and consider'd Major Lawrence's Advices and Mr Starke's & Mr Palk's Sentiments of them are of Opinion that Peace is what we should exert our utmost Efforts to obtain and that the greatest Advantage which can be made of the Major's late Success is to bring it about with less Difficulty and perhaps on better Terms, in consequence of which Opinion a Draught of a Letter from the President to the Major is now settled and is as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr.
Commander in Chief of the Company's
Forces in India.

Sir

I have receiv'd your Letters of the 27th Ultimo, 1st, 3d & 10th Instant to which I shall now reply. What Advices we receive concerning the Country Government are constantly transmitted you; The Mogul is besieg'd in his Capital Salabat Jung has imprison'd two of his Brothers, the Morattas have taken Guzarat and it is expected will soon be in Possession of Surat, The French under the Command of Mr Bussy are said to be at Golconda and are endeavouring to get Saneds for Vellour, Rajahmundrum, & Chicacule, in which if they succeed, from Cape Comarine to Point Palmeras Mr Dupliex will command. It is said Balazarow has accommodated his Affairs, in short the whole Empire is in a distress'd Situation and their Interests so variable that it is impossible to fix any Resolution concerning them that can be depended on a Month.

Mr Starke writes that Morarow is remov'd from Chellumbrum to Verdachilum, but 'tis as yet uncertain whether he intends the Rout of Trinomely, Arcot or Trichenopoly. Abdul Bob Cawn seems apprehensive of the former and I believe thinks of retreating.

Captain Ridge's Detachment continues at Devecotah, his Disposition seems well adapted for the preventing Incursions into the Tanjore Country or to move Northward or Southward as Occasion shall require.

Mr. Dupliex has return'd an answer to my Letters he entirely evades the Subject I wrote him on and in the room of it declares his Readiness for an Exchange of Prisoners and alledge[s] that the Nabob last year wrote him that if he had been his

——FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.——

own Master he should have deliver'd them up. Please to desire the Nabob to write me positively whether he did or not and acquaint him that Abdul Bob Cawn has seiz'd on part of the Tripoty Money, tis very necessary he should order him to desist from such Proceedings.

Agreeable to what you wrote, this Letter is free from Cyphers, Inclos'd is M^r^ Palk's Opinion and we request yours on this Point viz^t^

That the Nabob does not nor is able to defray our Expences according to his Agreement, he is already largely in Arrears and the running Expence is so considerable that I don't see how the Company can support it.

Whether we shall continue to carry on the War in this manner or whether a Peace with the Daloway in which our Ally the King of Tanjour to be included is not at all Events the properest Measure and the Nabob's late Success puts his Affairs upon a better footing as you remark by the Daloways being wearie[d] out with Expence and Disappointments which may probably inclin[e] him to listen to reasonable Terms.

On your acquainting us that the King of Tanjou[r] had made an Offer to be a Mediator between the Nabob and Dalow[ay] that we might facilitate a Peace so much desir'd we immediately sent Powers with such Instructions as occurr'd to us necessary to you & M^r^ Palk who were on the Spot and had the pleasure to receive your Letter acquainting us that you would promote it as much as possible; We are very sensible that your Command must engross your Thoughts and Time & shall be glad on all Occasions to alleviate your fatigue, therefore on your Letter mentioning it we immediately thought of the most probable Expedient to relieve you, in that of the 11^th^ you have our Sentiments of what we really imagin'd the Daloways Demands would be and in that of the 13^th^ and subsequent one what his Vakeel said on the Occasion and the Difficulty that remain'd to be surmounted, on maturely weighing this Affair we were of Opinion that it could with more Ease be negotiated here and accordingly you had inclos'd Copy of the Letters to the Nabob and Daloway on this Occasion. We still continue of this Opinion and expect Powers for that Purpose which we conceive makes it not essentially necessary that any of the Council should proceed to Tanjour as you propose. It's possible your Success or a Sudden Turn of Affairs may present you an Opportunity which may be greatly improv'd we therefore should be extremely oblig'd to you if any such lucky Occasion should offer that you will spur the Nabob on to make Proposals to the Daloway though none but in what his Allies are included; Probably the Daloway finding Trichenopoly reliev'd and his continual Ill Success may be inclin'd to accept a Sum of Money to be paid at a stipulated Time for which Madura & Tinnevelly may be given as Security; M^r^ Palk informs me the King of Tanjour said he would be bound for twenty five Lacks.

We have furnish'd the King of Tanjour with Arms, Saltpetre &c^a^ and directed M^r^ Starke to repay the two Candy of Gun Powder

The Junction of Monogee, Tondaman &c^a^ will we hope give a favourable Turn to the Nabob's Affairs, probably the Enemy will judge any Attempts on Trichenopoly not feasable & turn their Thoughts on the Arcot Province, which is at present almost defenceless, the Monsoon approaches when the Rivers will be swell'd and the Country overflow'd so as to make the March of an Army with a Train & large Baggage attended with great Difficulties and Fatigue, the Northerly Winds will set in which will render a Passage for Troops by Sea impracticable, the Inclemency of the Weather will prevail but whether the Enemy will think of Winter Quarters or not is uncertain; these Considerations render it necessary that as large a Supply as possible of Provisions should be flung into Trichenopoly with the greatest Expedition as the Communication is now open, the Nabob and his Allies must be so sensible of the Consequence of this that we don't doubt of their forwarding it, and desire you will inculcate the necessity of doing it; this once effected you will be at Liberty to prevent any Attempts of the Enemy to the Northward where (after providing for the Security of Trichenopoly & supporting the King of Tanjour) your presence seems necessary as it is reasonable to conclude the Enemy will attempt something in which they must

——FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.——

certainly succeed if there should be no Force to obstruct them, Please to advise us what Provisions are already and what may soon be flung into Trichenopoly and your Opinion of the Steps to be taken afterwards.

Colonel Scot is embark'd for Bengal taking Vizagapatam in his way, after making his Plans for the Fortifications at Bengal will return to us in January or March.

We are to thank you for your Zeal in the Service and particularly for your Conduct in the last Engagement; We hope to see the Military Reputation of the English soon reviv'd on this Coast and the Benefits to our Honble Masters Affairs thence arising. We are extremely sensible of the Gallant Behaviour of the Officers in general, Please to make my Compliments to them. with Wishes for a Continuance of your Success

I am Sir Your most Obed^{t}· Servant

THO^{s}· SAUNDERS.

Fort S^{t} George
22^{d}· August 1753.

P.S. Inclos'd are Duplicates of
several Letters with their Copies.

The President also lays before the Board a Letter to him from M^{r}· Dupliex which is enter'd in the French Correspondence N^{o}· 5 wherein he evades the Principal Point propos'd viz^{t}· Peace and introduces what has pass'd in relation to an Exchange of Prisoners.

In answer whereto a Draught of a Letter is now settled as enter'd in the French Correspondence N^{o}· 6 wherein the several Particulars in M^{r}· Dupliex's Letter are replied to and the Subject of Peace again press'd.

THO^{s}· SAUNDERS
CHA^{s}· BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}· WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{s}· BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 27th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}· GOV. PRESID^{T}·
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the Country and Camp Correspondence which are to the following Effect.

The Nabob Anaverdy Cawn gives an Account of the Action the Major relates in his last Letter and seems from thence to flatter himself with very sanguine hopes of soon seeing his Affairs in a prosperous way as the King of Tanjour & Tondaman are firm in his Interest and have promis'd to supply the Fort with Provision in regard to the following Quæres & Particulars in the President's Letter to him viz^{t}· whether he is able to support the Expense of the war? Whether he can bring a sufficient force in the Field to oppose the Enemy? Whether he has made any & what Agreement with the King of Tanjour and Tondaman and upon the whole recommending to him to conclude a Peace with the Daloway; he answers that he is not able to support the Expences of the War because the Mysoreans, Morattas & French have ravag'd the Countries that would have supplied him with the means;

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*———

That by the Junction of the King of Tanjour and Tondaman's Forces he has now a sufficient Number of Horse, and as to regular Troops he thinks with our Assistance he has a Force of Europeans and Artillery superiour to any in the Country. That he has made no Agreement with Tondaman who has join'd him through pu[re] Friendship but that he has agreed with the King of Tanjour to give him Madura & Tinnevely by way of Mortgage in case the Daloway be brought to Terms of Peace through his means and the King of Tanjour is in that case to procure Caroor, Dindega[l,] &c^{a}. Districts which formerly belong'd to Trichenopoly but are now in possession of the Mysoreans to be restor'd to the Circar. That as to Peace with the Mysoreans he cannot settle it there nor negotiate with the Daloway being at war with him. That he is willing to mortgage the Trichenopoly Country, but not the Fort, for Satisfaction of the Daloway's Demand and desires the Affair may be negotiated on those Terms at this Place with Vencatrow.

The King of Tanjour too entertains great hopes of future Success from the late Action & expresses an entire Confiden[ce] and Relyance on our Assistance, which he says has induc'd him to assist the Nabob with his whole force and as Morarow is on the Borders of his Country ready to enter it, he desires we will order our Troops to protect it as on that depends the supplying Trichenopoly with Provisions.

Tondaman writes that he is ready to act agreeable to order.

The following are the Letters receiv'd from Major Lawrence since last Consultation.

Sir N^{o} 33. Camp at the five Rocks 12 Aug^{t}. 1753

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 31 July with the several Inclos'd and have very little to add to what is already said on the Subject of our Affairs.

We came here today with an Intent not only to distress the Enemy but to cover Provisions going into the Fort. Herebistron is surrender'd to Monogee so that we possess all the Posts on the East Side of Trichenopoly.

I am Sir Your most Obedient and most Humble Servant

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}. S. LAWRENCE.

Sir N^{o}. 34. Camp at the five Rocks 18 Aug^{t}. 1753

A Volunteer of the French came to Trichenopoly as a Deserter while I was at Conandore Cohill, who was prov'd about four days ago to be a Spy & sent by Mons^{r}. Bernier the Commandant to debauch the Soldiers & surprize the Fort. Some of the Men whom he had been tampering with discover'd him and in consequence of the Nabob's Directions he was this day executed. He confess'd his Scheme was to let out the French Prisoners & cut every Englishman's Throat. He stil'd himself Plenipotentiaire du Marquis Dupliex in a Pardon he gave one of the Deserters in our Service and said he was to have a Lieutenant's Commission and 30000 Rupees if the Thing succeeded. I shall make a strict Enquiry after others whom it is prudent to suspect; Twenty Deserters have come over to us within these three days.

The Rains have incommoded us greatly & render'd the Paddy Fields so soft that no Carriage can pass over them, however we made shift to cannonade the Enemy in their Camp with an eighteen Pounder, and a few days of fair Weather may bring about a prosperous Event when the Daloway I hope will be brought to Terms supportable to the Nabob and King of Tanjour.

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 4th with the inclos'd which I deliver'd. You will know that I have long since order'd Captain Ridge to remain in the Neighbourhood of Devecotah. Morarow has sent a threatening Letter to the King of Tanjour

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1753.*——

and says Mr· Dupliex will order him to ent[er] his Country if he does not quit the Nabob. But Monagee laughs at these threats and all are determin'd to push the Daloway with the utmost Vigour

I am Sir Your most humble and most Obedient Servant

The Hoñble Thomas Saunders Esqr· S. Lawrence

In regard to the Nabob's Letter the Bo[ard] are of Opinion that the Terms on which he empowers us to treat are such as will by no means be accepted by the Daloway bec[ause] it is in fact giving him nothing as he will find it a difficult Matter to collect any of the Revenues without being in Possess[ion] of the Fort and on that Account rejected the same Offer when it was made him before, besides this Proposal of the Nabob's [is] of a piece with his former evasive Conduct and evidently intended only to amuse, for as in the same Letter he says he h[as] agreed to mortgage Madura and Tinnevelly which are the most valuable Part of the Trichenopoly Country to the King of Tanjour he cannot again pledge that whole Province to the Daloway without deceiving the one or the other. For these Reasons the Board are of Opinion that the Nabob's Letter does not afford sufficient Matter to enter on a Negotiation as he desires with Vencatrow the Mysore Vakeel as his Agreement with the King of Tanjour and Proposal to the Daloway clash and therefore require an Explanation and as the Major intimates that another Engagement would probably very soon happen the Event of which may change the face of Affairs 'tis Agreed to wait 'till fresh Advices are receiv'd from Camp before any further Resolution be taken.

Thos· Saunders
Chas· Boddam
Henry Powney
Ar· Wynch
John Smith.
Chs· Bourchier.

The President this morning receiv'd a Letter from Captain Pigou at Arcot an 29th
Extract whereof follows.

"The Nabob again desires me to repeat that unless he has more Assistance "he cannot supply you with Money; ten or fifteen Men will be of no Service to him "but if you will please to permit me to send an Officer and thirty Men, Trinomely will "be reliev'd, if not it must fall a Sacrifice to the Enemy together with the People who "have so bravely defended it, and the Force I mention can be spar'd without Risque "to this Place--Be assur'd Sir the Nabob or any one else shall never perswade me "to act contrary to your Order and that I would not urge you to relieve Trinomely "if I thought Arcot was in any Danger.

Which being immediately communicated to the Several Gentlemen of Council they were unanimously of Opinion for the Reasons given in last Consultation that it is improper to comply with what Captain Pigou writes especia[lly] as his present Opinion with regard to the Security of Arcot and the Sufficiency of the Garrison is very different from his former Sentiments on that Subject. The following Letter from the President was therefore with the Concurrence of the Council sent to Captain Pigou viz[t]

To Captain Benjamin Pigou.

Sir Fort S[t] George 29th August 1753

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 27th· It [is] so very inconsistent with those before that I am at a Loss to account for it, in your former you represent the weakness of you[r] Garrison and after sending you about fifteen Europeans, all [we] could spare, you still could have dispens'd with more, and ye[t] now tell me an Officer and

——FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.——

thirty Men with one Company of Seapoys might be sent without endangering the Place, the fatal Accidents that attended Captain Sanderson's detaching Mr Smith with a small Command, Captain Chace's doing [the] same at Trivedy and Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly are Instances so fresh that they should deter running such fruit[less] Risques in future, acquaint Abdul Bob Cawn that I shou[ld] be glad if we had force to protect the whole Province but we have not and therefore must regard those Places which are of the most Consequence; Trinomely being reliev'd might be of Service but the hazarding the Loss of Arcot, by reducing it's Garrison to fifty men should any Accident happen to the Command, is by no means prudent; You will therefore as I before wrote you make the Security of Arcot your chief Care and keep your Force collected as the present Juncture absolutely requires it, and as you say the former Detachment will be of no Signification you will send none as more cannot be spar'd.

Enclos'd are two Letters to Abdul Bob Cawn from Sumpetrow and Antazee Punt; tell him to send the Rents of Tripoty which he promis'd to do

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS.

Tuesday the 4th. September

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR. GOV PRESIDT.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board a Letter from the King of Tanjour and three from Major Lawrence..

In the first the King of Tanjour says that he has made no extraordinary Agreement with the Nabob nor will make any without our Knowledge.

The Letters from Major Lawrence are as follow.

Sir No. 35. Camp at Alletoor 23d. Augt. 1753

Finding the Enemy were too strongly situated to be attack'd in Front I decamp'd early in the Morning of yesterday and march'd round the Rocks 'till I took up a Post in their Rear which intimidated them so much that they struck their Tents in confusion and retir'd to Moota Chilinoor by the River Side. We advanc'd this morning to their old Ground and shall use all possible Methods of distressing them. In their hurry they left behind an old nine Pounder (which being Honey comb'd we have burst) besides a Carriage and a good deal of Ammunition.

We can perceive Moraree with his Army near Pitchundah. I have never had the least Notice of this Step of his from Devecotah. My last Advices were dated the 11th and the Letter nine days on the Road when Mr Dawson told me it was said Morarее design'd to go to Trinomely. I have order'd Captn Ridge with his Party to join me provided every thing be quiet in his Neighbourhood.

I am oblig'd to mention the necessity there is of having somebody at Tanjour, and if none of the Council chuse to go let me beg that Mr Palk may be sent as soon as possible. I need not mention the great Service he has already done us & I fear we shall never be able to put a sufficient Quantity of Provisions into the Fort unless somebody is present that will spur the King on to advance the Nabob, Money. These Delays will certainly ruin every thing. The Coleroon must be pass'd by Boats so that Morarow will be detain'd for some days.

I am Sir Your most humble and most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*——

Sir . N°. 36. Camp at Fakeer's Tope 25 Aug^t. 1753.

I wrote you from Aletoor that the Enemy had taken Post at Mootachelinoor where they have since cut down the Paddy Banks and overflow'd the Country so there was no getting to them. Part of Morarow's Horse have pass'd the Coleroon with a hundred & fifteen Europeans, as Captain Dalton informs me. If they have no more Capt^n Ridge's Detachment will still give us the Superiority in the Field; Yesterday a Party of ours consisting of three Platoons, a few Seapoys and two Guns who were sent as an Escort to Trichenopoly were charg'd on the Road by fifteen hundred of Hydronaigue's Horse from Wayconda but after losing several Men and Horses they thought fit to retire and left their dead on the Plain. So many successless Attempts must intimidate them greatly.

I mov'd here this morning for the conveniency of being supplied with Provisions and to cover the Convoys from Tanjour. The Enemy will give us no Chance for a decisive Action and it will be better to attend to things of more Moment than running about after them; besides as Monogee's Horse don't scamper about like the Morattas we are forc'd to protect our Bullocks with Parties of Foot.

As Trichenopoly is acknowledg'd on all hands to be of the utmost Consequence to us I think the Supplying it with Provisions ought to be no longer neglected; and if the King of Tanjour wants the Will and the Nabob the Power of advancing Money for this use, Don't you imagine it will be safer and better to do it ourselves than to maintain a large Army liable to Accidents at a great Expence on no other account but merely to protect this important Place from becoming an easy Prey to the Daloway. Let us reflect that now four months are elaps'd since I march'd to it's Relief, that the Arcot Country and even our own Settlements are expos'd and that properly speaking Affairs are not much forwarded since my Arrival because I had no money to advance for the purchasing of Rice and paying the Soldiers. On the other hand if the Place was supply'd for twelve months I could move into the Neighbourhood of Chellumbrum & retrieve the Nabob's Affairs in those Parts. Besides I am convinc'd the Daloway's sole Dependence is on their gaining a Battle while there is not a sufficient Quantity of Provisions in the Fort and if this was remov'd he would despair of succeeding and consequently give over his Attempt.

It won't be now improper to speak a word or two of the 11^th. What Security have you that Vencatrow can make good any Promise or that it's even in the Power of the Daloway to do it. If we must treat let it be on sure Grounds with the Fort full of Provisions, then every thing will appear in it's true Light. By Treaty Delays are brought on, Delays enlarge Expences, and the heaviest Purse carries it. I am entirely ignorant of what has been transacted with Vencatrow but if I am to judge from the Daloway's Behaviour when he receiv'd your last Letter desiring him to give his Vakeel full Powers, He is little inclin'd to Peace. He return'd the Hircar & bid him tell me he was extremely angry and would send no Answer, he likewise threaten'd he would cut his nose off if he had not come with a white Flag & desir'd no more Messages.

I shall add one word more. Perhaps it may be objected that the Company has already been at a Prodigious Expence and what I now propose must increase it. To this I answer that the Rice will sell for more than it costs and if we depend on Trichenopoly to reimburse us it will be prudent to put it out of Danger. Tomorrow I'll send you an Estimate of the Expence & let me beg your Opinion an[*Sic*] orders as soon as possible for the Monsoon approaches which will put it quite out of my Power to come to You.

I won't fail to solicit the King of Tanjour but his Delays may ruin us for which reason I can promise no Dependence on him.

Please to make my Compliments to the Gentlemen of Council

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

THE HONBLE THO^S. SAUNDERS ESQ.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*——

Sir N°. 37. Camp at Fackeer's Tope 26th. Augt 1753

Inclos'd is the Estimate I promis'd, you see the amount for twelve months is about two Lack of Rupees, out of which Money the Rice must be purchas'd. I hope an ill tim'd Parsimony won't be made use of to cause the least Delay, as it will increase Expences in the End, if not bring about the Ruin of every thing.

I have sollicited the King of Tanjour in the most pressing Terms & will give you instant Information of the Success of my Letters. I mean if the Money is advanc'd for I have ever look'd on words to be only the Shadows of Things

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence.

P.S. I have not heard from you lately.

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr.

In regard to the Consequence of Trichenopoly and the Expediency of supplying it with Provisions which Major Lawrence says he thinks ought to be no longer neglected, the Board are entirely of his Opinion and have been so from the Beginning as that and that only was the motive for the Army's marching to the Southward and if there has been any Neglect, the frequent Letters from the President wrote with the Concurrence of the Board pressing the Accomplishment of that Point will evince that they are not chargeable with it more especially as the Major had Leave to draw for what Money he wanted, but whatever unlucky Circumstances may have retarded this Affair tis very obvious that what impedes it at present is the want of Money and as it is very evident the King of Tanjour will always be as backward as possible in furnishing the Nabob either with that or Provisions in expectation that we shall supply him with the means to purchase the latter 'tis Agreed that Mr. Palk be prevail'd on to return to Tanjour agreeable to the Major's Request with Instructions to press the King in the most urgent Terms to use no more Delays but furnish the Fort at once with as large a Quantity of Paddy as he can collect and if notwithstanding these Instances he should still find him backward in his Endeavours or unable in that case to draw on us for what money may be wanted to purchase the necessary Store in Tondaman's Country or elsewhere.

Thos. Saunders
Chas. Boddam
Henry Powney
Ar. Wynch
John Smith
Chs. Bourchier

Saturday the 8th.

At a Consultation *Present*

Thomas Saunders Esqr. Govr. President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

The Secretary acquaints the Board that agreeable to Resolution of last Consultation he had apply'd to Mr Palk and endeavour'd to prevail on him to go to Tanjour as the Major requested but that he declin'd it and at the same time declar'd his Opinion that the Business to be done there may as well be transacted by any one else as 'tis nothing but to press the King to furnish Provisions and find Carriage for the same to Trichenopoly.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*——

General Letter from Major Lawrence read as follows.

Honble Sir & Sirs, Trichenopoly 29th. August 1753.

1st I have a Letter from the President now before me wherein he acknowledges the Receipt of several from me dated the 27th Ultº. 1st. 3d. & 10th. Instant. I have likewise address'd others to him which I hope are come to hand dated the 12th, 18th, 23d, 25th & 26th Instant. As these in a great measure contain my Sentiments of Affairs, I must request you will order them to be read over to you that all Repetitions may as much as possible be avoided and I will now add what further Reflections occur to me intending the whole to serve as an answer to Mr Saunders's Letter of the 22d. Instant.

The Distracted Situation of the whole Mogul Empire makes it necessary that we turn our Thoughts in particular on what concern these Provinces. If Mr. Dupliex gains the Saned you mention from Salabat Jung I don't see what Signification it can be of while the Title of both is liable to be disputed. Nay it would have been easy for him to have obtain'd it two years ago if he had thought it worth asking for.

I hope Captain Ridge is well advanc'd on his March agreeable to my Orders, though I have no Intelligence that he is set out. As his Detachment was design'd for acting as Occasion should require at a moment's Warning, I am sorry their Batta was stopt in the middle of the Month which Capt. Pascal informs me brought on a Mutiny. I am griev'd to tell you Gentlemen that a General Discontent reigns everywhere and how can it be otherwise when the Writers whom you appoint Chiefs of Forts insult our Captains, order out Parties, and command the Military as they please without consulting the Officers. These Proceedings if not put a Stop to must end in the Ruin of our Honble Masters Affairs. Alas! I have too long felt in my own Person the unhappy Effects of such usage.

The Answer from Mr. Dupliex is such as I expected. The Nabob who positively denies he said he was not his own Master will write to the President and Abdul Bob Cawn.

The President's Letter is free from Cyphers but to what Purpose? I see no positive Orders or determin'd Resolutions. Consider Gentlemen who will be answerable for all these Delays; tho' I tell you I'll give no Opinion you ask it afresh; though I desire some of the Council may be sent to Tanjour you evade it. Is not evident to the meanest Capacity that a Treaty may much sooner be concluded here in the Presence of all the Principals, than by Vencatrow a Vakeel who has not yet obtain'd full Powers? and who even if he had them could raise Difficulties in order to gain Time till he heard from his Master. And I would ask you who is so fit to represent the English as two of your own Body, when the Affair is at last refer'd to Fort St. George, the Members then present at the Board will be the Acting Government and can proceed to the finishing of every thing in the same Manner as though no one Member was absent.

Mr. Palk's Sentiments agree exactly with mine but they are not decisive, how can they when I am ignorant how far the 11th can be fulfill'd. I have spoke of this elsewhere.

I submit Mr. Palk's 5th Paragraph and my Letters of the 25th & 26th. to your serious Consideration. We have now three month's Provisions in the Fort. Tondaman and the King of Tanjour have stopt their Hand so that if we don't purchase the Rice ourselves we are certainly fix'd here for the Monsoon and I am convinc'd it is what they want. My Opinion of the Steps to be taken after the Fort is supplied is if we have time to march before Chellumbrum, but if the Season is too far advanc'd, then to secure our Soldiers in Winter Quarters. After which I am determin'd to appear at the Council Board for I am quite tir'd of so much Writing to so little Purpose.

The Nabob is always ready to make Proposals to the Daloway if you'll send him your Directions but What he has done hitherto has only serv'd to make the Daloway more insolent.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1758.*——

It will appear that since I came into the Country I have ever been for promoting Peace and if you can effect it do in the Name of God. Let it not be said that I oppose you. I wonder my Advice which was formerly rejected and despis'd should now be so strenuously sought after. Surely it is not with a Design to expose me a second Time. I shall never submit to that and indeed I feel my Strenghth & Eyesight decay so sensibly that I fear in a little time I can be of Use no where however Zealous I may be for spending my latest Breath in the Service of my Country and our Honourable Masters.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obed$^{t.}$ Serv$^{t.}$

S. Lawrence.

To The Honble Thomas
Saunders Esq. Presidt & Gov. &c Council of Fort S^{t} George.

Although the Board are of Opinion that the Major's Letter is wrote throughout in a Stile & Spirit which cannot reasonably have taken it's Rise from any thing in the Correspondence or Management of Affairs here, yet in consideration of the Publick Service, 'tis thought prudent to let it pass unnotic'd rather than by an ill tim'd Warmth on their Part stir up the Embers which having for some time disappear'd it was hop'd had been extinguish'd and this they are the rather induc'd to as the Letters on both Sides will on a candid Perusal speak for themselves. The Board therefore having deliberated on the Contents of the Major's Letter and the Present Circumstances of Affairs are of Opinion.

1$^{st.}$ That the Nabob having declar'd himself (and tis too true he is) utterly incapable of defraying the Expences of the War, if it be continued, that burthen must fall entirely on the Company, since the King of Tanjour is either unable or unwilling to contribute to it.

2$^{d.}$ That the Nabob's Debt to the Company is already very large & by continuing the War will in a short time become extremely grievous without any hopes or Prospect of ever seeing it discharg'd unless he should be peaceably settled in his Government, an Event there is but little Reason to form any sanguine Hopes of seeing, so long as the French, Mysorean and Moratta are in League, or even whilst the former have any Power left to disturb the Publick Tranquillity, a Power they have at present a sufficient Force in these Parts to exert and may should their Affairs require it strengthen by recalling the Detachment with M$^{r.}$ Bussy.

3$^{d.}$ That notwithstanding what Major Lawrence mentions in his Letter of the 25$^{th.}$ Ult^{o} of the Daloways Stern Behaviour and Threats to the Messenger who carried the President's Letter, whence he concludes him averse to an Accommodation there is great Reason to believe a Peace may be concluded with the Mysorean upon giving up Trichenopoly as his Vakeel here has declared so to the President and further that his Master (who desires to treat privately lest the French should take Umbrage) will in that case agree to join the Nabob, give him a sum of Money and pay his Debt to the Company.

4$^{th.}$ That if it were probable the Nabob could in the End be peaceably settled in the Government both of the Trichenopoly and Arcot Countries it would be adviseable by all means to support him agreeable to our Alliance with the Circar as it would then be in his Power to reimburse the Company, but the Aversion of the French to Peace, the seeming determin'd Purpose of the Dalloway to possess Trichenopoly be the Expence what it will, and the Inability of the Nabob & his Allies to support the Charges of the War not only render his maintaining those two Countries doubtful but even make it precarious whether he may ever possess either so long as his Forces are divided for the Protection of both, a risque too great (if it can with prudence be avoided) to adventure so much more of the Company's Money upon as must in that case be advanc'd and if either of those Countries must be given up for the Preservation of the other there needs no Argument to prove that 'tis the Company's Interest the Arcot Country should be secur'd.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*——

5. That should Trichenopoly be given up and the Daloway by that means attach'd to the Nabob's Interest and become an Ally to him and the English, the Company's Investment at Salem and the circumjacent Places in or bordering on the Trichenopoly Country and Mysore Dominions (which at present is greatly impeded and probably may in future suffer more) will not in the least be affected.

6. That notwithstanding what is aforesaid, if the Nabob shou'd contrary to all Persuasion obstinately persist in not giving up the Fort of Trichenopoly to the Daloway it will still be the Company's Interest to support him to the utmost Extremity not only in prospect of being reimburs'd what the Company are in advance on his Account but because the withdrawing our Assistance would inevitably bring on his Ruin, the Consequence of which would be that the Arcot Country would become a Prey to the French and the Company be excluded from any Investment there.

That upon the whole the properest Measures to be taken in the present Circumstances of Affairs are to throw as large a supply of Provisions as possible into Trichenopoly and that the Major have Leave to draw on us for that Purpose which being effected may render an Accommodation with the Dalloway less difficult. That a proper Person be sent to Tanjour to press the King to exert himself on this Occasion & from thence proceed to the Nabob with Instructions to lay before him a full State of his Affairs, to represent to him the Company's Inability to support the Expences of the War and to urge to him in the strongest Terms the necessity of his consenting to the Cession of Trichenopoly on the Conditions propos'd by the Mysore Vakeel or better if they can be obtain'd, in case nothing else will content the Daloway. And tis thereupon

Resolv'd

That Thomas Cooke Esq^{r} be appointed to take upon him that Charge, and Ordered

That Instructions to him be prepar'd for that purpose empowering him also to treat with the Daloway on the aforesaid Terms if Occasion should offer, and that a General Letter to Major Lawrence be also prepar'd in answer to the several Particulars in his last and acquainting him of the present Resolutions. It is also Agreed that in future the Correspondence with Major Lawrence be to and from the President and Council.

The President acquaints the Board that the Noquedahs of the King of Pegu's Ship had again apply'd to him in their Masters Name to be dispatch'd alledging that it grows late and they were order'd to return before the Feast of Candles for which they have purchas'd sundry Cloaths & other Necessaries here and are apprehensive they shall not arrive in time if detain'd here any longer besides their Freighters had protested against them for all Damages that might happen from a further Delay.

Resolv'd. That as they press for their Departure they have leave to sail but that as no Advices have yet been receiv'd of M^{r} Hunter's Success the two Palankeens prepar'd as Presents to the King and AppoRazah be not sent on the Kings Ship as was intended but reserv'd for a future Opportunity if it shall be thought proper upon the News that may be receiv'd from the Negrais.

Draught of Letters from the President to the King of Pegu and Apporaza having been prepar'd are now laid before the Board and approv'd.

THO^{s}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{s}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{s}. BOURCHIER

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*———

Monday the 10th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R. Gov^r. PRESID^T
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the Country & Military Correspondence.

The Nabob in answer to what the President desir'd Major Lawrence to acquaint him of viz. " M^r Dupliex alledges that the Nabob last year wrote him that if he had " been his own Master he should have deliver'd up the Prisoners " says that he never wrote to M^r. Dupliex at any time and that it would be inconsistent for him to write in that Manner as the French are actually his Prisoners, that there is a Man wi[th] the Enemy at Veloor famous for counterfeiting Signatures and Seals who may possibly have done this.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly reque[sts] to be reliev'd from the Command of that Place, encloses an Account Current of the Charges of that Garrison for the Mont[hs] of July and August amounting to AR^s. 21727 : 5 whereon a Ballance of upwards of 2000 AR^s. is due to him and advises that he is under a Necessity of drawing on us for more Money for the Charges of the two next Months.

Resolv'd that Captain Dalton's Draug[hts] be complied with but in regard to his request to be reliev'd that Major Lawrence be desir'd to acquaint him we cannot immediately grant it as he is capable from his Knowledge of the Country of being more serviceable than any other Officer and that we expect he will continue to exert himself.

The Nabob having assign'd over the Tripoty Revenues to the Company towards the Discharge of his Debt to them and the annual Feast held at that Place drawing near when large Duties are collected 'tis Agreed that a Party of forty nine Europeans and two hundred sixty four Seapoys agreeable to a Return now produc'd be detach'd from this Garrison and proceed to Arcot to join what Forces Abdul Bob Cawn can add and one Company of Captain Pigou's Seapoys & from thence march into the Tripoty Country to protect it from the Insults of the Enemy during the Feast and until the Revenues are collected which are to be remitted to this Place.

Draught of a General Letter to Major Lawrence is now read and with some Additions thereto approv'd a Copy whereof follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^R.
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE COMPANY'S
FORCES IN INDIA

Sir

The Several Letters mention'd in yours of the 29^th. are come to hand, the last to you was the 22^d. Ult^o. Those receiv'd as well as what sent you are constantly perus'd by us and enter'd in our Private Proceedings ; For the Greater Regularity the President desires the Correspondence may be from and to the Governour & Council so that you will constantly address us as we shall you.

We shall now reply fully and give you our Sentiments on the Situation of Affairs as you are a Member of the Board agreeable to the Company's Orders we shall acquaint you with every thing that occurs and be glad of your Opinion which we shall digest with our own and then pursue the measures we judge most prudent, if from any Circumstances that may intervene such measures should not concur with your Sentiments, we are responsible for them.

Should M^r. Dupliex succeed in getting Saneds for the Rajahmundrum & Chickakull Countries farewell to our Trade in those Parts, as there is no European Force to oppose him and if his Scheme on this Province should take Place, our Honble Masters Settlements on the Coast of Choromandel would be of little Value

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*——

as he would govern from Cape Comarine to Jaggernot Pagoda, we have but too great Reason to believe his Views extend even further and the more encouraging Prospects he laid before his Principals the more force they will send him to secure his Acquisitions and prosecute his further Designs, which must end in our Ruin.

When Captain Ridge's Detachment was order'd to continue at Devecotah it was judg'd unreasonable they should receive Batta in the Company's Garrison, it was therefore taken off as we think we can omit no opportunity in endeavouring to lessen that exorbitant Expence which we labour under; On their marching their Batta commenc'd again, the Contractor M^r^ Wynch informing us he had every thing ready As we had always found M^r^ Dawson's Conduct satisfactory we are sorry he should give any Reasons for Complaint; We shall enquire into it and if we find him culpable resent it. Tis our constant Rule to employ the Company's Servants in such Branches of their Affairs as we judge them proper for, Devecotah is a losing Settlement and we are afraid ever will be, the Ground is let to Farm, there is no Manufacture to be set on foot there but what must interfere with S^t^ David so that when we consider any Advantages that might arise with the Disadvantages they must occasion they are entirely cancell'd. On M^r^ Pybus's Removal from thence M^r^ Hopkins was appointed to succeed him but is not yet arriv'd, therefore M^r^ Dawson continues to transmit us the Accounts & to execute such Orders as he may receive from us or the Gentlemen at S^t^ David which must be obeyed.

You are well acquainted with the melancholy Circumstances that occasion'd your March to Trichenopoly, Circumstances that we hope will happen no more. On your Departure from S^t^ David you was supply'd with a large Sum, we gave you the Liberty of drawing on us for what you might further have occasion for and transmitted you several Bills from hence 'till M^r^ Palk said there was no further Occasion as you could draw for what wanted from thence. Twas a Pleasure to us to hear from you that Tondaman had join'd and assisted in the Grand Point of throwing Provisions into Trichenopoly, and this was greatly increas'd when you wrote that the King of Tanjour enter'd vigorously into the Alliance, which the Threats of the French and Moraree had for a long time intimidated him from greatly to the Nabob's Misfortune for had he exerted himself in December what might not have been expected. The Dread of the Loss of Trichenopoly at last rouz'd him from his Supineness. We still receiv'd a further Satisfaction in hearing from M^r^ Palk that he contributed largely to the Store of Trichenopoly and from the Nabob that he had engag'd to furnish no less than 40000 Collums of Paddy for that Purpose, nor had we any Allay to this Success 'till your Letter of the 25 August. We were in hopes from the Accounts we had receiv'd that every thing would have been soon accomplish'd but as we find Difficulties arise we must endeavour to surmount them, therefore desire you will lay in the Provisions as expeditiously as possible and draw upon us. The King of Tanjore's Vakeel promises us his Master will furnish 60000 Collums of Paddy, as it will take up a considerable Time to bring this from Tanjour it would be better you receive of him the Amount in money. We have applied to M^r^ Palk who not thinking his Presence necessary declines going.

Our constant Endeavours have been to forward Peace, This was inculcated to the Nabob last year, he sent his Vakeel to M^r^ Dupliex who was deaf to all Proposals. Often repeated have been the Letters to the Daloway to bring about an Accommodation but to no Purpose, his views center'd in Trichenopoly, this the Nabob absolutely rejected. When you acquainted us with the King of Tanjour's Proposal of being a Mediator though we doubted his Sincerity and by Letters afterwards found we had reason for it, We invested you and M^r^ Palk with full Powers to treat, furnish'd you with Instructions on that head, advis'd what the Mysore Vakeel said on the Subject gave it as our Opinion that the Affair rested with the Nabob and desired you to intimate to him the necessity of it. We had the Pleasure to hear that these Orders reach'd you and tha[t] you were endeavouring to negotiate the Affair and afterwards were inform'd by you that nothing could be effected in Camp. We then endeavour'd at it as it was ours and M^r^ Palk's Opinion it could be much better done here. The Reasons are that You and M^r^ Palk found it impossible to transact it in Camp, that

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*———

the Nabob himself writes that it cannot be done there, that the Dalloway who is apprehensive the French should be immediately acquainted with it desires by his Vakeel to negotiate secretly and as you observe in your Letter of the 29th the Affair must be refer'd to us. The very same Reasons prevail in regard to not sending two Councellors for if you and Mr Palk could effect nothing what can they do? however that nothing may be wanting, being sensible that your Command must engross your Thoughts and Time and as you desire to be excus'd from such Commissions, we have appointed Mr. Thomas Cooke solely to transact it and furnish'd him with Instructions though we think it necessary he should go to Camp as Paymaster; that the Transaction may be as secret as possible he will communicate to you his Instructions. When we consider the large Expence that has been flung on us since December last and our Inability to support it we think Peace absolutely necessary and as the Mysore Vakeel has receiv'd a Letter from his Master with proposals either to receive the Money due from the Nabob or [*Lacuna in the originl.*] for which he promises large Advantages, we still continue our Sentiments that the Affair rests with the Nabob and desire you will urge to him the Necessity of it. This Affair should be transacted with the greatest Circumspection so as not to give Umbrage to our Allies who through Jealousy might pursue Measures destructive to the Nabob.

What Orders Circumstances would admit we have given you vizt. with the greatest Expedition to throw Provisions into Trichenopoly; to support the King of Tanjour and if Circumstances admit, return to the Northward. You are sensible that even these depend so much on your own or the Enemy's Success and Motions a Change of which may necessitate a change also in measures that in this case we must desire you will act as you judge for the Good of the Service.

Our Honourable Masters will we are assur'd always shew a just Regard to the Merit of those who exert themselves in the Service; The present Situation very particularly requires it of us and we hope will be successful. We are sorry for your Indisposition from which we wish you a speedy Recovery.

Captain Dalton in a Letter to the President has desir'd to be reliev'd. As the Knowledge he must have acquir'd of the Trichenopoly Country and Fort and of every other Circumstance necessary to it's Defence will enable him to be more serviceable there than any other Officer we can think of, we cannot immediately comply with his Request and would have him continue to exert himself in his Command.

In the present Circumstances of Affairs we think it more convenient the Nabob's Family should reside at one of the Company's Settlements than at Trichenopoly, we therefore recommend it to you when you return with the Army to prevail on them if possible to accompany you to St. David.

The Gentlemen at Fort St. David have advis'd us that some of the Salem Merchants have long had a Quantity of Cloth on hand provided for the Company's Account but that they connot venture to bring it down because of the Dangers in the Way from the Enemy, We cannot perfectly judge how far it may be in your Power to remove the Difficulty and therefore only recommend it to you if it can be done to give them an Escort either now or when you march Northward, or what other Assistance you can.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants THOMAS SAUNDERS CHARLES BODDAM, HENRY POWNEY, ALEXANDER WYNCH, JOHN SMITH CHARLES BOURCHIER.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*—— Wednesday the 12th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV^R. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board a Letter to him from Captain Schaub at Pondicherry (enter'd in the French Correspondence N^o. 7) acquainting him that the French have by vile and infamous Means seduc'd & entic'd away thirty men of his Detachment Prisoners there, that M^r. Dupliex has prohibited him & his Officers all Communication with the rest of his Soldiers, who however have found means to get a Letter to him assuring him of their unalterable Attachment, he adds that being press'd in point of Time he proposes to write again the next day by the way of Fort S^t. David when he will give a Detail of the whole Affair.

The Board having consider'd the Contents of Captain Schaub's Letter are of Opinion that as he promises to write again and to give a full Relation of the Circumstances of this Affair the Knowledge of which may be material in forming a Resolution it is proper to wait the Arrival of the Promis'd Letter.

Draught of a General Letter to Thomas Cooke Esq^r to serve as Instructions for him to negotiate with the Nabob, King of Tanjour & Dalloway is now read and approv'd and is as follows.

To THOMAS COOKE ESQ^R.

Sir

Being determin'd by all possible means to promote a Reconciliation between the Nabob and Dalloway though Mess^rs. Lawrence and Palk advis'd us they found it impossible to effect any thing yet we are come to a Resolution to make a further Trial and have fix'd on you for this Commission, you will therefore proceed to Camp with Expedition visiting the King of Tanjour in your Way and that you may be able to execute this Trust with the greater Facility We give you the following Instructions.

The King of Tanjour has not only join'd the Nabob but has engag'd to furnish 40,000, his Vakeel says 60,000 Collums of Paddy to be put into Trichenopoly, he has as yet made but a slow Progress in fulfilling this, you will therefore spur him on and as the Carriage of such a quantity of Grain from Tanjour must be attended with great Trouble and Lengt[h] of Time, if you could prevail on him to pay the Equivalent in Money it would better answer the purpose, you may at the same time assure him of our strictest Attachment to him, that we shall always regard his Interest as inseparable from ours, an[d] enter into no Engagements without his Consent & Knowledge; with this is a Letter to him purporting that you are sent by u[s] to negotiate our Affairs.

We give you full Powers to confer with the Nabob concerning the necessary Steps to be taken to conclude a Peace and to do the same with the Daloway, the Letters now deliver'd you signify the same to them, and that you may have a per[fect] Knowledge of this Affair, we think it necessary to tell you what has already pass'd and our Sentiments thereon.

The Daloway has seem'd averse to treat in Camp, possibly intimidated by the French or thinking their Knowledg[e] of it might be of Disservice to him, but on conversing with his Vakeel here he express'd a strong Desire for it & has since acqua[inted] the President that he had the Daloways Orders to propose eit[her] being paid the Money he advanc'd or being put in Possession of Trichenopoly, and if the latter, he would draw off the Moratto fr[om] the French who with himself were to join the Nabob, settle him in the Arcot Province enter into a strict Alliance with him & further would pay him a considerable Sum of Money and tha[t] he would also enter into a Friendly Alliance with the King of Tanjour.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1758.*——

The Nabob though the Situation of his Affairs ha[s] been frequently laid before him and our Inability to support the Expence, evades as much as possible coming to the Point and wrote the President that he gave him a Power to settle Affairs with the Daloway & offer him the Districts belonging to Trichenopoly, but not the Fort, 'till the Money be paid. We are of Opinion these are Terms the other will not accept but that with Trichenopoly he would be satisfy'd and in return grant the Nabob several Advantages, though nothing ought to be left to his Generosity.

If contrary to Expectation the Daloway could be brought to accept a Mortgage of the Districts belonging to Trichenopoly as a Security for the Payment of a certain Sum to be settled and agreed on in full Satisfaction of all his Demands on the Nabob & thereupon consent and engage to draw off the Moratta from the French and return to their Respective Countries we recommend to you the perfecting such an Accommodation, But if he is not to be satisfy'd with any thing less than Trichenopoly, the terms on which the Cession of that Place may be consented to are these.

1st. That he renounce his Agreement with the French and enter into an Alliance with the Nabob to settle him in his Government.

2d. That he draw off the Moratta from the French and engage him to enter into an Alliance with the Nabob to settle him in his Government.

3d. That he defray at his own proper Expence the whole Charge of the Mysore and Moratta Troops.

4. That the Payment of the Nabob's Debt to the Company be secur'd and that such a further Sum as the Parties may agree on be paid by the Daloway to the Nabob.

5. That the English, King of Tanjour & Tondaman be included in this Alliance and act as Guarantees for the Performance of the Treaty which must be sign'd by the Contracting Parties and if either of them shall at any time infringe it he is to be deem'd an Enemy by all the rest.

6. That all the Parties do jointly use their Influence to promote a Peace with the French.

7. That if either of the Parties be attack'd, the rest shall support him, the party attack'd defraying all Charges.

8. That until the Daloway shall have fulfill'd whatever is herein before stipulated to be done by him the Fort of Trichenopoly shall be garrison'd by English Troops, but so soon as the Nabob shall be peaceably settled in the Arcot Government and the Daloway shall have accomplish'd what is before stipulated on his part to be perform'd, the English Troops shall then evacuate the said Fort and put the Troops of the Mysore King in full and quiet possession of the same.

You are not in this Affair to act as a Principal but Mediator, the great Expence the Daloway has been at Loss of Men and Horse and a Store of Provisions being flung into Trichenopoly will we imagine make the Daloway ready to come to Terms, the Difficulty lies with the Nabob, he always procrastinates and flings the Weight on us which we are not able to bear you will therefore put him in mind of the Friendship and Regard we have shew'd him and remonstrate to him in the Plainest and the Strongest Terms that however great our Attachment is to him we can no longer support so large an Expence, that it is ungenerous of him to desire our Ruin and tell him seriously upon all Accounts to come to an Accommodation whilst Affairs allow of it for should Ill Success attend him (and the Fortune of War is ever precarious) it will then be impossible and he mus[t] be entirely ruin'd.

These People are extremely jealous therefore the Gre[at]est Secrecy and Circumspection is necessary that no Umbrage may be given to our Allies, especially the King of Tanjour.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*——

Though we entrust you solely with this Commission yet you will acquaint Mr. Lawrence with every thing that occurs and he as a Member of the Board will give you his Opinion. You will write to us constantly. Wishing you Success We are

Sir

Your affectionate Friends

Fort St. George
12th Sept. 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President also lays before the Board Draught of Letters to the Nabob, King of Tanjour and the Dalloway on the same Subject which are approved and entered in the Country Correspondence.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 17th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR. GOV. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM, HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the following Letters vizt

From the Marquiss Dupliex (N° 8) in answe[r] to that wrote to him the 22d Ulto. wherein he says he has already clearly stated every Particular and a Repetition would be needless. That he has receiv'd the Approbation and Orders from his Court as well as we from ours, that he should be glad the President would communicate to him the Opportunity that offers of restoring Peace, that he might acquaint the Prince of Decan of it and act agreeable to his Desire.

In reply to which the Subject of a Letter is now agreed on and order'd to be prepar'd acquainting him that he mistook the Sense of the Presidents last Letter in regard to the Principles we act on, which he construes Orders from our Court but the meaning is. Orders from Court, Gazedey Cawn & Salabat Jung; That the Opportunity of restoring Peace to thes[e] Provinces which he desires may be communicated to him is nothi[ng] more than leaving Anaverdy Cawn in the quiet Enjoyment of the Subahship of the Carnateck agreeable to the Saned granted him and that the King of Tanjour be not molested which being once agreed on as a Basis, any Differences between him and the Nabob may afterwards be adjusted and we shall be ready to use our Influence to reconcile them.

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes that Abdul Bob Cawn has at last perswaded his People to march to the Relief of Trinomely and that it is reported a large Detachment of Seapoys is come from Trichenopoly to join him.

Captain Lin at Changleput writes that the Country about that Place is much pester'd with the Enemy, that about 1500 of them having rendezvouz'd about seven miles from him he by a Stratagem gave them a false Alarm upon which they dispers'd and return'd to the several Forts they were drain'd from.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER.

——FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.——

19th. The President receiv'd a Letter from Captain Pigou at Arcot, advising the Arrival there of Ensign Holt with his Detachment, that he shall detain them there till he receives further Orders as none of the Nabobs Troops who are all gone to the Relief of Trinomely can join them, and he is inform'd Mahomet Camaul's Force at Tripoty is considerable, consisting of nine hundred Horse, two thousand Seapoys, exclusive of Poligars and eight Guns with Europeans to work them, that Abdul Bob Cawn thinks it will not be prudent to send the Detachment without his People who cannot join without abandoning Trinomely and earnestly intreats that that Place may be reliev'd before the Party marches to Tripoty.

Which being communicated to the Gentlemen of Council the President with their Concurrence wrote the same day to Captain Pigou that he had already acquainted him by Ensign Holt that the French had sent a Reinforcement of fifty Europeans & some Seapoys to Trinomely & therefore it would be only sacrificing Ensign Holt's Detachment to send them there, besides should they first go to Trinomely it would afterwards be too late to proceed to Tripoty. That Mahomed Camaul's Force is not so large as is represented to him and consists only of Matchlocks & Seapoys. That the Renter of Tripoty writes the Polygars and 2000 Peons will immediately join our People ; That if Abdul Bob Cawn will join Ensign Holt he must proceed immediately to Tripoty, otherwise he must return directly to Poonamaly.

Monday the 24th. AT A CONSULTATION *Present.*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R. GOV. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq^r. read as follows.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R.
PRESIDENT AND GOV^R. &C. COUNCIL OF
FORT S^T. GEORGE.

Hoñble Sir & Sirs

I am this day honour'd with the Receipt of your most distinguish'd favour under date the 12th Instant containing your Commission and Instructions for my proceeding to Camp in quality of a Mediator for perfecting a Peace between the Nabob and Daloway ; I cannot but esteem this as the highest Mar[k] of your good Opinion and as such am beholden to assure you my best Endeavours shall not fail to be exerted in negotiating the same agreeable to the several Terms you have recommended to my Observance ; though after the many fruitless Efforts which have been already made by Major Lawrence and M^r. Palk whom it must be acknowledg'd were greatly my Superiours for such an Undertaking, I cannot help begging Permission of making this genuine Confession. I see not the least Inducement whereby I can flatter myself with the least Thought of Success. For as the Nabob has always appear'd so utterly averse to the Principal Point insisted on (I mean that of parting with the Fort of Trichenopoly) It is not to be doubted but his reasons are very material and such as render it much to be fear'd he will ever be inflexible and deaf to all Representations that can possibly be made on that head. Unless by a Motion of the Troops this way he is satisfyed of the absolute Necessity for hearkening to it. As this is the Chiefest Difficulty not to be surmounted I have taken the Liberty of offering it to your farther Attention, to the End, if other Measures than what are prescrib'd to me are found necessary, they may be seasonably taken. And though I have many more Reasons that lead me to the greatest Despair of proving any ways serviceable as your honour &c^a. have seen Occasion to command me on this Errand, I intend to proceed on it as expeditiously as possible after settling the Business of my Employ, in which as I have no other View or Expectation than barely to convince you of my Obedience, the Hardships I sustain thereby, such as Loss of Time in improving my Fortune :, Endangering my Health, as well as Risquing my Person and Life by falling into the Hands of the Enemy

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*———

which from all that I know I am to be utterly expos'd to being to proceed without any Escort; I must beg Leave to recommend to your Consideration not doubting as it has been the constant Rule of our Honble Masters on all Occasions so to do and there being so late an Instance immediately before you in their Commands this year in favour of the Supervisors to the West Coast, You will think an Undertaking of this General Consequence merits not only recompence but if perform'd with Success, the highest Reward. The former however being all that I can yet pretend to is what I humbly submit to your Determination relying that you will think it reasonable and appoint me something suitable to the Dangers and Inconveniencies I am to undergo. Exclusive of this I am in want of your Orders for defraying my Travelling Charges as I do not find any Notice is as yet taken of it. These Things your Honour &c^{a}· must be sensible are Consequential Points to myself, and as such are necessary to be made clear before I set out, wherefore as they have escap'd your Recollection hope the reminding you of them will not be taken amiss. I know not what writing Work may present in this Business but if at any time there should be much I must acquaint you that I am not able to go through it having now an Inflamation in my Eyes which I expect will grow much worse. This I refer to your Consideration either to order me an Assistant or not as you may think most proper, and am with the Utmost Respect.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Fort S^{t}· David
the 18th Sept. 1753.

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
THOMAS COOKE

The President lays before the Board the Camp Country &c^{a}· Correspondence as follow

FROM THOMAS COOKE ESQ^{R}·

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ̃.

Honble Sir

Fort S^{t}· David 20 Sep̃. 175[3]

In my Address of the 18th I intimated my Resolutions with Respect to undertaking the Commission for Tanjour so that I need only acquaint you now that they remain unalterable, The Occasion of this is to request some Explanations which I have to remark in case I proceed viz^{t}

In the 3^{d} Article, It is mention'd that the Daloway is to defray at his own proper Expence the whole Charge of the Mysore & Moratta Troops. Does this mean for the time past as well as the Time to come as I understand their Services last year remain unadjusted. And in the 4th Article it says the Payment of the Nabob's Debt (I suppose to the Company) must be secur'd. To be able to accomplish this, is it not necessary I should be acquainted with the Amount and what are the Methods you prescribe for securing it– And should the King of Tanjour be brought to pay the Amount of the Paddy he has promis'd in Money what would you have me do with it. Another Thing I have to take notice of is with Respect to the Execution of the Treaty, should I be so fortunate as to make all Sides ripe for it agreeable to the Terms given me (though I utterly despair of any such Success) am I then with Major Lawrence's Approbation to execute without waiting your further Orders and if by Chance there should be any one Article in your Instructions which the Parties cannot be brought into, is it to stop the whole or may I with Major Lawrence's Consent pass it over; If I may, Publick Directions for the same must be my Authority. You will likewise be pleas'd to inform me whether upon this extraordinary Commission it will not be proper to carry some Materials for Presents, I mean nothing large, only such as may be customary upon Introductions or Visits from any of the Parties

——FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.——

concern'd, and speaking of this should be glad to know if you would have me covet an Interview with the Daloway or would you have all that may relate to him carried on by Correspondence only; the latter I conceive will make Matters much more difficult, how far it may be necessary on account of privacy I leave to your Judgment. This being all that now occurs I am to beg the favour you will be as full to me in your Correspondence as possible it being my strongest Desire to do nothing but what I am sure will be approv'd—I am told that the most adviseable and safest Rout I can take will be by way of Negapatam (going there by Sea) where I may probably meet with an Escort; If not the King of Tanjour by being appriz'd may send one; Besides it is a very good, short and direct Road from thence and clear of all Rivers but one or two and those almost at the Journey's End. The other way there are Rivers enumerous and very difficult. You will therefore let me know if you have any Objection to my going to that Place, as I promise you my stay there shall be as short as possible; It will make the Journey infinitely easier to me and I believe turn out most expeditious. I have receiv'd your Watch for the King of Tanjour which I omitted to mention in my last. I am with perfect Respect.

Honble Sir

Your most Obed^{t} Humble Servant

THOMAS COOKE.

The Purport of an Answer to M^{r} Cooke's two foregoing Letters being agreed on a General Letter is order'd to be prepar'd accordingly and enter'd in these Minutes Copy whereof follows.

To THOMAS COOKE Esq^{R}

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 18th wherein you assure us of your best Endeavours in the Business we have order'd you to transact, the Major's Time and Attention being engross'd by Camp Affairs and the Nabob's Replies to the Several Letters wrote him on the Situation of his Affairs being far from satisfactory has induc'd us to order you to Camp to confer with him and acquaint him with our Sentiments; the Instructions we have given you are full and plain so that instead of the Difficulties you set forth and the great Importance of the Commission we see nothing but what may be transacted with Ease. You will pathetically represent to him the Impossibility of our Supporting the Expence and if he can find no Expedient to remove it, an Accommodation with the Daloway must take Place and on this we have already told you the needful.

The Inconvenience you mention can never be admitted to interfere with publick Service, which tis the Duty of all the Company's Servants cheerfully to attend to when or wheresoever they are call'd, and if their Conduct is entitled to it their Merit will always be consider'd; Your Absence will be no Detriment to your Station at S^{t} David; you will charge your Travelling Expences, Let them be as frugal as possible.

The President has communicated to us your Letter of the 20th September, as he has desir'd that all Correspondence may be to and from the Board you will direct accordingly. Inclos'd is an answer to your several Quæres.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

Fort S^{t} George
26th September 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*——

Answer to Mr. Cooke's Quæres in his Letter to the President dated 20th September 1753.

3d Article. Whatever Accommodation the Nabob & Dalloway come to, certainly such Accommodation cancels or is in lieu of all former Demands and consequently the whole Charge of the Mysore and Moratta Troops must be the maintaining those Troops whilst they continue to act for the Nabob.

4th Article. It expressly says the Payment of the Nabob's Debt to the Company, it is impossible to fix the Amount to the Time of Treaty so that it must be demanded in General Terms and the Security to be required for the Payment of the Sum must be that Trichenopoly remain Garrison'd by English Troops untill the Money be remitted and receiv'd here. You are in all your Negotiation to observe that the Surrender of Trichenopoly is to be the last Rosource and is not to be complied with untill all other means of Accommodation with the Daloway have been try'd without Effect, you may however to save time press the Nabob at once to consent to it in case it should at last prove necessary.

If the King of Tanjour pays the Money it admits not of the least doubt but what you would immediately pay it to the Commissary.

If the Nabob and Daloway do come to Terms we are convinc'd the Daloway will not trust to any Conclusion in Camp therefore it must be refer'd here. We have already told you Major Lawrence will not act and that you must solely, advising him of what passes and hearing his Opinion.

An Alteration of Articles may be admitted provided it be with the Consent of the Parties concern'd.

We have for several years eas'd our Honble Masters of the heavy Load of Presents. Ten Gold Mohurs to the Nabob [and] as many to the Daloway will be sufficient.

The Daloway by his Vakeel has intimated his Appr[e]hensions from the French if a Treaty be publickly negotiate[d] we therefore think an Interview if it can should be avoide[d.]

We have been advis'd the Communication is open th[ough] we think your proceeding to Negapatam will not be less secure.

We think it would not be proper to acquaint the King of Tanjour with the last Alternative of your Instructions 'till you are convinc'd of the Nabob's Resolution though you may assure him that nothing will be concluded contrary to his Interest or without his Consent and in general terms insinuate how advantagious an Accommodation must be to all Parties.

FROM MAJOR LAWRENCE

Sir N°. 38 Camp at the French Rock 16th Sep 1753

Captain Ridge with his Detachment join'd me this Morning; They were set out from Devecotah in a most distress'd Condition and the greatest Part of their Stores have been spoil'd through the Badness of the Weather and the Want of proper Conveniencies. The utter Neglect and Destructive Delays that I have daily Experience of will I fear prove the Ruin of the Company's Affairs much more effectually than all our Enemies United.

I have not heard from you lately though I think some of my Letters demand a speedy Answer. The Rainy Season is set in and it will be impossible to keep the Field much longer.

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE.

The Honourable
Thomas Saunders Esqr.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1753.*——

Agreed that a Remittance be made to Major Lawrence of ten thousand Pagodas as soon as Bills can be procur'd lest he should meet with any Difficulties in drawing on us agreeable to our former Directions for the Current Expences of the Army, That a General Letter be at the same time wrote him in answer to the foregoing acquainting him that we know of no Delays and should be glad he would acquaint us whether the Officers of Captain Ridge's Detachment were refus'd any thing, whether the Officers of the Train were negligent or where the fault he complains of lies, that we may shew a proper Resentment.

The President acquaints the Board that M^r^ Starke had wrote to him that he had receiv'd a Letter from Major Lawrence mentioning his Apprehensions that the Enemy would make an Attempt upon Devecotah which he was of Opinion should therefore be reinforc'd, Though Major Lawre[nce] has not communicated his Sentiments in this Head to the Board the President is however desir'd to write to M^r.^ Starke that we cannot send any Detachment from hence, but if any men can be spar'd from Fort S^t.^ David, Devecotah should be reinforc'd that this being a Matter of Consequence he should have sent us up Major Lawrence's Letter or at least a Copy of it.

Captain Dalton advises that he had drawn on us for five thousand Pagodas for the Charges of the Garrison of Trichenopoly for the months of September and October exclusive of Seapoys.

Order'd that the same be discharg'd

Translate of a German Letter from Captain Schaub at Pondicherry to Captain Gardner at Fort S^t.^ David is read as enter'd in the French Correspondence N^o.^ 10 on the s[ub]ject of M^r.^ Dupliex's debauching and enticing away the So[ldiers] of his Detachment as mention'd in Consultation the 12^th^ In[st.] whereby it appears the Men were deceiv'd by assurances that Captain Schaub himself intended to desert with th[em].

Agreed that Remonstrances be made [to] M^r^ Dupliex and that we protest against him for seducing and enticing away under false & scandalous Pretences the Military whom he has repeatedly declar'd he does not consider as Prisoners though he unjustly & violently detains them in Pondicherry contrary to the Law of Nations and in defiance of the Treaties subsisting between their Britannick & most Christian Majesties our respective Sovereigns and that Captain Schaub be likewise directed to protest against him not only on this but on every other just Occasion that may require it.

Amongst the Country Letters are two said to come from one Goverdun doss at Delhi and that the purport of them is that the Nabob had requested him to obtain three Phirmaunds from the Mogul, one for granting the Subahship of Arcot & Government of Trichenopoly to the Nabob, another for the President offering him favours and requesting his Alliance, and the third for the King of Tanjour, but that the Nabob had not sent a Letter and Present to the Mogul which had prevented his obtaining them, that as soon as the Present and Peishcush should be sent he would use his Endeavours to procure the Phirmaunds and in the second Letter he says he shall shortly send them. The President acquaints the Board that the Hircars who brought the abovemention'd Letters said they came from Delhi but last from the Nabob & brought Dusticks from Delhi for one hundred and twenty Rupees each seal'd with the same Seals as the Letters, that upon Receipt of them he sent for the Gomastah of Goverdun doss who lives at Delhi, shew'd him the Letters and ask'd him if he knew the Seals, He immediately answer'd they belonged to one Goverden Doss, a Shroff at Vellour, but upon the President's smiling He said there was one of that Name in Salabat Jung's Camp and they might be his, from which Circumstances it is evident they were not sent by Goverdun Doss at Delhi and very probably are forg'd by the Nabob to answer his present Purpose.

THO^S.^ SAUNDERS
CHA^S.^ BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^R^ WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^S.^ BOURCHIER.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753*——

Agreeable to Resolution of last Consultation a General Letter is now sign'd and sent to Major Lawrence, Copy where[of] follows. 26th

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R. COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE COMPANY'S FORCES IN INDIA.

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 16[th] Instant directed to the President, we know of no Delays an[d] are concern'd the Stores should suffer from the Inclemency of the Weather; we should be glad you would enquire into it, if the Officers of that Detachment were refus'd any thing necessary or if the Officers of the Train were negligent in the packing of the[m] that we may know where the Blame lies, though we think the Officers on that Detachment should have taken care that they were in order.

We have fully reply'd to the severals you have wrote us.

M^r Starke advises that he has sent you a Bill for 3000 Pagodas and we now send you another on Buckunjee's People for 10,000 more.

Fort S^t George 26 Sept: 1753. We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 1st

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R GOV^R. PRESID^T.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

General Letter from Major Lawrence read as follows

Honble Sir & Sirs N^o. 1 Camp near Trichenopoly 22^d Septem. 1753

After giving a little Rest to Captain Ridges Detatchment I was determin'd to risque a Battle with the Enemy for they had taken Possession of the Sugar loaf & Golden Rocks & made it very difficult for us to get Provisions in any Quantities into the Fort which endanger'd the Loss of it. Thus an Attack upon their Camp was absolutely necessary though our Prospect of Success was not extraordinary for besides their Superiority in Numbers both of Foot and Horse they were fortified with strong Breastworks. On the 19^th I made a motion in the Night from the French Rock to the Fackeer's Tope as I found it necessary to begin with the Golden Rock. The whole day of the 20^th was spent in cannonading and the better to conceal our Design I had order['d] out an eighteen Pounder from the Fort that they might think we had no other View but that of disturbing them in their Tents with our Shot. This lull'd them into a Security and at four oClock in the Morning of the 21^st our Europeans being dispos'd in three Lines with the Seapoys on our Flanks and the Horse in our Rear we attack'd the Rock and gain'd it without any Loss, Cona Tringy the Commandant retiring after a fain[t] Resistance and leaving behind him two Pieces of Cannon—This Earnest of Good Fortune encourag'd the Men greatly an[d] determin'd me to push on to the Main Body, so that no Time might be lost I disabled the two Guns and advanc'd towards the Sugarloaf Rock just as the Day began to break. Here the French were drawn up amongst their Works and the Soldiers march'd through a constant Fire from nine Pieces of Cannon, forc'd the Enemy's Lines and

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*——

drove them out of them. They however rallied and made some faint Resistance afterwa[rds] supported by the Morattas who rode up very desperately, but as these could not sustain a Galling fire which fell upon the[m] from all Quarters, they at length run away and left us comp[leat] Masters of the Field of Battle, the three Camps with all the Baggage and Ammunition and ten Pieces of Cannon. The [Re]mains of their Army retreated some towards Aletoor & Syringam some towards Tondaman's Country and some towards Tanj[our]. The Poligars & Seapoys bring in Prisoners every Minute. The Action lasted near two Hours. We took eight Officers amongst whom Mons Astruc, and a hundred Soldiers besides the Kill'd which might be about sixty more. The Morattas sav'd the rest and prevented a Pursuit. On our Part we had six Officers wounded and several Men kill'd or wounded as you'll see by the inclos'd Return. I receiv'd a slight wound in the Arm with a Musket Ball but I thank God it does not prevent me from keeping the Field and continuing to do my Duty. Several Papers have been found which you shall have as soon as possible with other Particulars. The Enemy are now gone to the Island and I hear intend to cross the Coleroon. The Daloway must certainly give up the Cause and the French without him are nothing. It appears that Mons^{r} Maissin brought up with him seven hundred Europeans so I hope they have no further Resource and the Loss of the Field Train must affect them prodigiously. I shall continue to distress them to the utmost of my Power.

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 10th September which you call an Answer to what I wrote but I am far from being of that Opinion; however act as you please, since you won't afford me the least Complaisance I am determin'd not to trouble you or myself any further with Recommendations of any kind.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient Servant
S. Lawrence

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}
President & Governour &c Council of
Fort St. George.

The President lays before the Board the Camp & Country Correspondence.

A Letter from Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly agrees with Major Lawrence's Account of the late Action near that Place.

Although the Advantages gain'd by the late happy Victory are very considerable, yet the Board are of Opinion that no Alteration should be made in our Plan but rather that it be pursued without Loss of Time as Peace is the grand Object in view and may probably be obtain'd on Advantagious Terms whilst the Enemy have fresh in their Remembran[ce] their late frequent Defeats. Besides the French have yet a considerable Force, the Fate of War is uncertain and a Reverse of Fortune might plunge the Nabob into inextricable Difficultie[s] in consequence of which Resolution a Letter to Major Lawrence is now sign'd and is as follows.

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^{r}
Commander in Chief of all the
Company's Forces in India.

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 22^{d} Ult^{o}. and congratulate you on the late Success over the Enemy as in their Retreat they are so divided we hope you will find their Loss still greater by what must be destroyed and made Prisoners. What Effect

——FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.——

this will have on Morarow and the Dalowa[y] you will soon perceive. We have desir'd Mr Cooke to lose no Time that the Advantages may be improv'd, Captain Pigou writes from Arcot that Hussan Addee Cawn is taken Prisoner at Trinomely. Our Compliments to the Gentlemen in Camp with our Thanks for yours and their good Services.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort St George.
the 1st. October 1753.

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes as follows " The Nabob has this moment receiv'd " a Letter from Trinomely advising him of a compleat Victory gain'd over the Enemy " before that Place & * Shaik Hussan is once more a Prisoner. The Loss sustain'd " on each Side is not yet known.

*Alias Hussan Addee Cawn.

Ensign Holt advises that he had been join'd only by one hundred & twenty of the Nabob's Seapoys and was on his March towards Tripoty.

Abdul Bob Cawn writes in regard to the Tripoty Money that Sanawasa Cherry the Renter had paid only thirty nine thousand Rupees to his Seapoys for their Expences, that however to preserve the President's Good Will he had found means to borrow forty five thousand Rupees which he had ordered to be paid him.

And the President acquaints the Board that he had accordingly receiv'd the amount thereof in ten thousand five hundred & eighty eight Madrass Pagodas.

Ordered that the same be carried to the Credit of Nabob Anaverdy Cawn's Account with the Company.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present.* Monday the 8th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR GOVR PRESIDEN[T]
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esqr. read as follows.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.
PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOUR &C. COUNCIL OF
FORT ST. GEORGE

Honble Sir & Sirs Fort St. David 3d. October 1753.

I am favour'd with the Receipt of your Letter of the 26th. Ulto. in answer to the Address I had the honour of making you under date the 18th. of that Instant, in which I think I sufficiently certified my willingness to under[take] the Commission you have seen Occasion to lay on me as likew[ise] that my Endeavours should not be wanting in executing the same to your Satisfaction; but this, the Sequel of my said Letter will plainly shew was under a Relyance that your Hon[our] &ca would appoint me a suitable Recompence for the Dangers which my Person and Life would and must be expos'd to in such an undertaking, being to travel upwards of 200 Miles

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*———

through a Country in open War without any Escort and then to follow an Army in daily Action. In which though I do not fight myself, a random Shot is likely to knock me down as any other Man or to make the Comparison yet plainer, I am to stand no better Chance than a Cow or a Buffalo, for though I have the Advantage of them in reason it is far over ballanc'd by the natural Shortness of my Sight which cannot but be well known to you all. These Circumstances being the material of what I offer'd and intended for your Consideration, it gives m[e] the greatest Concern to find by the Substance of your answer that they appear entirely overlook'd and the whole Stress of your Sentiments laid upon this Trifling Appellation. Ill Conveniency which you are pleas'd to say "can never be admitted to interfere with "the publick Service, and that it is the Duty of all Company's Servants cheerfully "to attend thereto when or wheresoever they are ordered, and if their Conduct be "entitled to it, their Merit will be always consider'd." All this your Honour &c^{a}· will permit me to say is no more than 15 Years Service and Experience has made me well acquainted with, and am confident that no one can attend to their Duty with greater Cheerfulness than myself, provided it be fix'd alone to the Welfare of the Honble Company or any of their Settlements wherein I am or may be station'd. And for their Interest would readily proceed to any part of the World, they finding me a proper Escort for the Security of my Person and Life, which I am well perswaded they would readily consent to or in lieu thereof grant me a Suitable Recompence that would encourage me to undertake it without, but in the present Errand you have given me it has, is and ever will be acknowledg'd that the Honble Company whom I have the honour to serve are no Principals, and though they have from Motives material to their Interest espous'd the Cause of Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn, it is well known the Conditions are such that all the Expences they are or might be at of whatsoever kind relative thereto should be charg'd to his Account, and in consequence thereof every Officer and Soldier going into the Field on his Service have from that moment commenc'd on different Allowances suitable to their respective Ranks and that this has been thought necessary for their Encouragement admits of no Doubts. I might besides add for your Reflection the Extraordinary Pay that is given even to every Cooley attending on the Army more than is allow'd them for any Uses in Garrison. Every Carriage, Ox or Beast [of] any Sort are likewise hired at a high Rate that the Owners may be recompenc'd for such as are kill'd lost or destroyed. From all which Instances I presume you cannot but be well [sa]tisfied that some Consideration more or less agreeable to thei[r] Rank, Station, Credit or Quality are due to every one atten[ding] on the Army. What you are pleas'd to represent of the necessity there is for my going is what I do not in the least take upo[n] me to dispute, nor have I ever express'd the least Unwillin[g]ness to do it, but as the Safety of my Person and Life are to be expos'd to extraordinary Hazards; First in getting to the Army and then to be Subject to a Tedious Campaign which I am confident was never my calling I must say it is a Thi[ng] that I cannot undertake with any Chearfulness without a Suitable Recompence. Neither can I imagine your Honour &c. are capable of dealing so hardly with me as to expe[ct] it when you are so well acquainted that something of the same Nature is allowed to every man in the Field which is charg'd to the Nabob's Account. And how then is it possible for me to think that a Member of your Board (singled out as I am inform'd for no other Reason but his Peculiar Capacity for going upon an Affair of such General Consequence) can be so differently treated as to put his Life alone in Danger for no Consideration. And here I cannot help concluding you ha[ve] greatly mistaken the meaning of what I offer'd to your Consideration in my former Letter in telling me "If my Conduct was entitled to it, my Merits will always be consider'd." This shews as if you understood it that I had ask'd my Reward beforehand but I flatter myself if you will do me the favour to look back to the Letter you will find it quite different, and that what I ask'd was only a Suitable Recompence for the Dangers and Inconveniencies I am to undergo; the last mention'd of which (had that been all) I must own I should have scorn'd to have inserted it and therefore cannot but be greatly concern'd to find by your answer it has been the chiefest Thing consider'd. You will therefore permit me to tell you again that what I intended for your

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753*——

Principal Debate was a Recompence for the Dangers which you expose my Life and Person to, and this contrary to any Obligation I am bound to in my Covenants. As to a Reward should my Success or Conduct claim any Pretensions to it after a thorough discharge of your Commission I humbly and most willingly refer it to be determin'd on by my Honble Masters, being well assur'd their Behaviour in that Case will be handsome & Satisfactory, but as Life and Liberty is precious to every one, it cannot but be allow'd where either of those are endanger'd (and more especially in the immediate Service of the Nabob at whose Calling I never was) there is just reason to demand a Recompence beforehand lest I should be kill'd, in which case I am certain to have nothing but Leaden Coin for both Recompence and Reward. All this your Hon^{r} &c. will be pleas'd to reflect on as well as what Satisfaction my Family are to reap from such a Misfortune and all from undertaking a Tour which in the present Dangers exceeds any part of my Duty. That I am oblig'd by my Covenants to go when and wheresoever I am order'd is doubtless to be understood as General Terms which my Honble Masters found necessary to insert, but as it is well known there are no General Rules without an Exception I humbly conceive there must be one in this, as it cannot be imagin'd to have been ever their Intent or Meaning that any one of their Civil Servants should be order'd to face the Mouth of a Cannon and they to shew implicit Obedience to it. This I humbly appeal to them as well as your Honour &c. if it bears not too great a Parallel with your present Commands. I should however be as ready as any one to do even this in the Defence of their Settlement where I may at any time reside but to be expos'd to such Eminent Dangers in an Open Country overspread with War is what I cannot by any means submit to either in Justice to myself or Family unless a suitable Recompence be first secur'd me. The Letter I wrote the President at the same time I address'd you under date the 18th Ultimo acquainted him very plainly of this my Determination, which if he has communicated to you will I hope bear me guiltless from having any Intention to trifle with you in this Affair. And as I am all in readiness to proceed if this Point was but settled, I must assure you that I am extremely sorry so much time should be lost about it which leads me further to desire (as I am sensible affairs of such Consequence should not be delay'd) if after all the Remonstrance that I have now made you cannot see just reason to comply with the Tenour o[f] my Request, being expressly a Recompence for the Dangers which you expose my Person and Life to; you will be pleas'd to fix the Commission on some one else and permit me to return your Instructions for I can never admit of having my Life put i[nto] the way of being sacrific'd without a sure & certain Recompe[nce] especially on a Duty that I am convinc'd is no ways belongin[g] to my Calling. I am with all due Respect.

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
THOMAS COOKE.

Copy of the Letter from M^{r} Cooke to the President referr'd to in the foregoing

Honble Sir

Fort S^{t} David 18 Sept^{r} 1753.

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your kind favour of the 15th and am highly oblig'd for the good Opinion you are pleas'd to entertain of me, though to have escap'd the Commission I must confess I would have been glad it were less. My publick Answer comes by these Tappies wherein you will observe my Intentions are to proceed as soon as I can settle my Employ and get all things prepar'd which I judge will take up ten or twelve days at least, but you will be pleas'd to take notice I mean it with a Proviso that I have a suitable Recompence, besides a proper Order for defraying my Travelling Expences which I flatter myself the Reasons I have

inserted will induce your Board to comply with. Such Errands as these at the Risque of my Life or my Person being taken Prisoner are far from being of a common Nature and such as I believe is nowhere specified in my Covenants and therefore cannot by any means be complied with without an Ample Recompence. It will doubtless lye in your Power to settle this and as it is immediately on the Nabob's Service will of Course bear placing to his Account so that if there be but a good Will at home I conceive no Difficulty can be started in it. I do not pretend to dictate the Sum but hope it will not be under 1,000 Pagodas & that in hand, As I take it not as a Reward but as a Recompence for twice as much which my Fortune may suffer by my Absence. As to a Reward I lay Pretensions to none without my undertaking meets with Success and then I should think I have good Reason to hope my Fortune is made. That you should not think I have the least Inclination to trifle in the Affair has occasion'd me at once to speak thus plain acquainting you that on the settling of this Point depends my Proceeding and as it is probable you may think there is good Appearance of my Return in five or six Months, I answer, if no longer it deserves the Sum mention'd, though if Affairs are not accommodated and the Army continues out I do not expect to come back by consent these two Years. Should I proceed you may depend on my utmost Skill in executing your Instructions to Satisfaction. I know not how you intend my Employ should be dispos'd of but hope whoever has the Management of it in my Absence it will be carried on in my Name and that I shall be still deem'd Second of Fort St. David though out of the way ever so long I beg leave to refer you for other Occurrences 'till tomorrow assuring you that I remain with perfect Respect

Honble Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servt.

THOMAS COOKE

The Honble Thos. Saunders Esqr.

The Board having consider'd the Contents of these extraordinary Letters are of Opinion for the Reasons contain'd in their Answer enter'd hereunder that Mr Cooke's proceeding immediately on the Commission he is appointed to be peremptorily insisted on without any previous Recompence and on his Refusal that he be dismiss'd the Company's Service and in that Case as there will then be a Vacancy in Council it is Resolved that Mr William Perceval who is the next in Standing be admitted as a Member of this Board and proceed to Camp to execute the Commission which Mr Cooke has already too long delayed

Copy of a General Letter in answer to Mr Cooke.

To THOMAS COOKE Esqr.

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 3d Inst. and must acknowledge our great Surprize to find you seem to persist in declining the Commission we have thought proper to appoint you to without a Recompence is made you for the Risks you say your Person must be expos'd to in the Execution thereof. The Arguments you use in support of it are very trifling. In enumerating the Dangers you tell us you must inevitably be expos'd to, you mention being oblig'd to travel upwards of 200 Miles through a Country in open war without an Escort. This as Major Lawrence has assur'd us more than once the Communication was entirely open even before the late Engagement seems rather a Pretence than any thing really dangerous nor did we imagine or expect you would leave St. David without a Guard of Seapoys or after your Arrival at Tanjour, to which place it is allowed by every one the Roads are quite clear of the Enemy, that you would have proceeded to Camp 'till

you had advis'd Major Lawrence & receiv'd an Escort from him should it be necessary to conduct you to the Nabob; Another of your Reasons for this Demand is the extraordinary Allowances made to the Officers and Men in the Field in the Nabob's Service which you alledge is given them for their Encouragement, we are sorry you are more ignorant in this Particular than any other Person in the Company's Service who are no Strangers that those Allowances were establish'd to bear the high Charges attending their being in the Field & which their Pay alone was insufficient to defray. In this Respect you have much the Advantage as the Expences you may be at will be discharg'd by the Company, therefore we think this can't in the least be admitted in Support of your Request.

We differ greatly from you in Opinion that the Intent of your Proceeding is not upon the Company's Service but more immediately the Nabobs; You as well as we have but too much Reason to be sensible their Interest is so nearly connected with his that it is at present inseparable and that your proceeding on this Commission may be attended with very great Advantages to their Affairs and therefore may be justly deem'd upon their Business. We before told you we made no doubt if your conduct was entitled to it your merit would be properly consider'd by them. It is not in our Power to give away the Nabob's Money and even was it, as you know as well as we, that it must come immediately from the Company's Cash who are already too considerably in advance for him, your proposal of a Recompence appears to us very mercenary & convinces us that the Dangers you lay so much Stress on are even in your own O[pi]nion rather imaginary than real, for were they any thing equal to what you represent no pecuniary Reward we think ought to tempt a Man, if Publick Spirit could not, so greatly to expose his Life and Liberty, We cannot therefore by any means comp[ly] with the Tenour of your Request but insist on your proceeding immediately agreeable to our former Directions, the Execution whereof has been already too long delay'd or that you give us the earliest Notice if you still continue to decline it; in which case We shall think your want of Regdar to the Company[']s Affairs in this Instance renders you unworthy of serving the[m] in any other Respect.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

Fort S[t] George
18[th] October 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board the Camp and Country Correspondence and also

A Letter from the Marquiss Dupliex (N° 11) which is wrote with the usual Spirit of Chicane which he never fails to exert on the most trifling occasions with an apparent Intent of drawing from us some unguarded Expressions rather than to promote Peace, the Subject of an Answer now agreed is that by his positive Assertions in regard to our Orders from Court & Transactions with the Country Government as well as by his Reasoning on them he seems to have a more perfect Knowledge of them than we ourselves, that as he rejects the Proposals we have made but says he thinks some means of Conciliation may be found out we should be glad to know what they are that we may communicate them to our Allies Nabob Anaverdy Cawn Behauder & the King of Tanjour with whose Consent we will readily enter into a Conference with him if the Terms he may offer can afford any Prospect of attaining an Honourable Peace.

Ensign Holt writes that having advanc'd within six miles of Tripoty he took Post in a small Town to refresh his People, but he had scare halted when he found himself surrounded by the Enemy who attack'd him on all Sides however he maintain'd his Ground and at last oblig'd them to retreat towards Tripoty but having expended almost

all his Ammunition he found himself under a necessity of marching to a Place of Security. In a subsequent Letter he mentions his being join'd by Nazeabulla Cawn and one of the Country Poligars from whom he got a Supply of Ammunition and judging their united Forces to be about two thousand he propos'd the next day to march and attack the Enemy. A Let[ter] from Mr James Ogilvy (a Voluntier) continues the narrative of this Expedition, thus ; that they attack'd the Enemy near Tripoty and in the Beginning of the Engagement Mr. Holt having receiv'd a Shot in his Thigh which entirely disabled [him] he (Ogilvy) put himself at the Head of the Troops and having entirely routed the Enemy march'd into Tripoty of which he is now in possession. That Mahomed Camaul being taken in the Heat of the Action the Nabob immedia[tely order]ed his Head to be struck off.

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes that Ensign Holt [being] rêturn'd thither having had his Thigh broke by a Cannon [Shot in] the Engagement he had sent Ensign Achilles Preston to [take] the Command of the Detachment at Tripoty.

The Country Letters only contain an Account of the Enemy's Defeat at Trinomely as mentiond (by Mr Pigou) in la[st] Consultation and of the above Success at Tripoty.

The Board being of Opinion that a Vakeel may be of great Service at Tanjour by giving us immediate Intelligence of what may be transacting there especially as there is reason to suspect that the Kings Vakeel here is but too much inclin'd to the French Interest Agreed that Ramah Naik a Person of good Character and Experience be employed as such and proceed thither forthwith.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

The 9th. General Letter to Major Lawrence sign'd & sent as follows

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR. COMMANDER
IN CHIEF OF ALL THE COMPANY'S FORCES IN INDIA.

Sir

The last Letter we had the pleasure of receiving from you was dated the 22d. September and brought us the agreeable News of your Success against the Enemy, Duplicates of our two last Letters the Receipt of which has not been acknowledg'd accompany this.

We have not been able for several years past to send home Muster Rolls of the Military on this Coast if it could be done now it certainly would be acceptable to our Honble Masters, we should therefore be glad you would furnish us with compleat Musters of those under your Command to be forwarded by the Delawar which we are in hopes of dispatching shortly.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants,

Fort St. George
9th. October 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The 11th. Sent by Tappies to Fort St. David a Letter from the President (with a flying Seal under cover to Mr Starke to be by him clos'd & forwarded) to the Marquiss Dupliex agreeable to Resolution of last Consultation the same being dated this day enter'd in the French Correspondence No 12.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*—— Monday the 15th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR. GOVR. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Two General Letters from Major Lawrence read as follow

Honble Sir & Sirs Camp at Warrior, Septr. 27, 1753.

Yesterday Waycondo was reduc'd by Assault after one Night's Siege and Bombardment, It was defended by Seapoys, Matchlocks & Topasses belonging to the King of Mysore.

The Enemy since the last Battle are retir'd to Syringam and a great many have cross'd the Coleroon to Pitchunda. An Officer with his Platoon were pick'd up by the Tanjour People at Killicooty; Others are found daily in Tondaman's Woods, so that their Numbers are greatly diminish'd. Mr. Astruc who commanded as Maissin was sick at Syringam says they had eight hundred Europeans in Battalion, five hundred topasses, one hundred of the Train, and twenty five Troopers; Now our Battalion including Topasses and Coffreys was barely six hundred men; we have a great many sick.

The Nabob has yet receiv'd no Letter from the Daloway; Surely he'll soon come to Terms.

If the French should take Devecotah in their way when they leave Pitchundah, I hope you'll take care to reinforce it. Mr Starke says 'tis out of his Power.

Provisions are now the main Article, but Boocunjee will advance no money, to what purpose then will be my drawing on you.

I have communicated your paragraph to Captain Dalton who intends to address you himself.

Captain Crompton advises me that you have sent a Lieutenant of the Train to Vizagapatam who has formerly been made a publick Example of in the Pillory for Theft and other villainous Practices. All the Officers refuse ranking with him; we hope you'll either clear his Character or turn him out of the Service.

The Papers I mention'd in my last are only private Letters of no Consequence to us. The Commandant's Escrutore was carried off.

As we have sustain'd great Losses in the Article of Military Stores, whether taken from the Enemy or our own I have found it absolutely necessary to appoint a Quartermaster of the Train who for the future will be answerable for all these Things. Mr. Robert Revell from his Experience and excellent Character seems to be the most proper Person and is employed in this duty which does not interfere with that of Lieutenant of Artillery.

Lieut. Hilford is dead of his Wounds and Captain Dillens has recommended Serjeant William Matthews on account of his extraordinary gallant Behaviour & good Character to be made an Officer of Artillery in preference to his own Voluntiers. I have therefore appointed him to do the Duty of Lieut. ' till your Pleasure shall be known. I must recommend that you fill up Vacancies the moment they happen for we are in great Want of Officers. I wish Mr. Starke could contrive to send Money to Tanjour. Let our Dependence be upon ourselves alone.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient humble Servant

S. LAWRENCE

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr.
President & Governour &c. Council
of Fort St. George.

——— *FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*———

Honble Sir & Sirs No. 3 Camp near Trichenopoly 2d. Oct. 1753.

After the Reduction of Waycondah we mov'd to theFrench Rock as well for the Sake of covering Provisions from Tricatapully as being at hand to cross the Covery in case it was thought proper. In the mean time a Vakeel arriv'd from Moraree Row with Letters for the Nabob and Monagee declaring his good Intentions towards them and advising them to make Peace with Nandirauze. This induc'd the Nabob to send Proposals yesterday which I now inclose and will communicate to you the Answer as soon as it comes back but nothing of this kind shall put a Stop to our Military Transactions 'till Articles are absolutely agreed on as the Enemy's Design may be to amuse. The French, Daloway and Morattas are still in Syringam and Jamboocaseram Pagodas except a Party at Pitchunda.

Our Distress for Money is very great. I shall be sorry to say this is the second Opportunity we have lost though gain'd at the Risque of a decisive Battle for stocking the Fort with Rice. There is no depending on Buckunjee and indeed his Complaints are not unreasonable, He says he had a Bill on the Deputy Governour & Council of Fort St. David for Pagodas, that they being short of Cash chang'd the Species into Rupees at the Currency and gave him another Bill on you which was rejected and sent back. This join'd to your Delays of satisfying a Bill I formerly drew on you for Rups. 20000 has hurt the Company's Credit prodigiously. I am not a Judge whether this method of acting has occasion'd a Saving or Losing of a hundred or two of Rupees to the Company in their Books but I know it has put the Loss of all their Forces to the Risque with Trichenopoly into the Bargain.

Let me beg once more that you'll send me a large Supply of Money from St. David to Tanjour; it may come safe enough by Hircars.

Inclos'd is a List of all our Officers fit for Duty.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence.

The Honble Thos Saunders Esq. &cs. Council

Translation of the Proposals sent from Nabob Anaverdy Cawn to Moraree by his Vakeel 1st. Oct. 1753.

1st. After Peace is made the Nabob is to satisfy Moraree in the Sum of Money settled by the means of Ragonaick. The said Sum is to be paid by the Circars or Shroffs for which Monagee Row will be Security.

2d. The Nabob is to pay him the Chout of Arcot as usual unless Balogee Row should come to this Province and demand it, in that case he is to receive it and Moraree is only to have the Overplus if there be any. Further if Bologee makes the Nabob pay more than is usual; Moraree is to satisfy the Nabob in the account of the year following.

3rd. If either the Nabob or Moraree is attack'd by any foreign Power except Bologee Row they shall mutually assist each other.

4th. If there be any Expence on account of fighting he that calls in the other shall defray it.

5. The Nabob is to try for the Phirmaunds from Salabat Jung if he can get them Moraree will have them but he does not make an absolute promise on this Head & can't be answerable.

Monagee Row acts as a Mediator in this Negotiation

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*——

Proposals sent from the Nabob to Nandirauze by Beema row Vakeel of Moraree row

1st The Nabob is to satisfy Nandirauze in the Sums of Money he advanc'd him, Moraree & Tondaman till the Death of Chundah as ℔ the Nabob's Bonds, further he promises to pay five Lacks of Rupees for these Sums the Nabob engages to Mortgage such Countries as Monagee Row shall settle. After the Money is collected Nandirauze shall return the Countrys to the Nabob.

2d. If Nandirauze agrees to the abovemention'd Proposal he must quit the French and should the French on this Account offer any Mischief to Nandirauze or Moraree then the Nabob binds himself to beat them by means of the English.

Monagee Row & Moraree Row are Mediators in this Treaty.

N.B. Major Lawrence on the Part of the English has nothing to do with their Negotiations, but barely will assist the Nabob against all his Enemies.

Agreed that two Lack of Rupees and twenty five thousand Pagodas be sent to Fort St. David on the Prince George and that the Gentlemen there be directed to send Major Lawrence an ample Supply in the Securest Manner they can. That twenty Men be detach'd from this Garrison and sent by the same Conveyance to reinforce Devecotah and that Major Lawrence be advis'd thereof and that we approve of his Appointment of Lieut. Revell to be Quarter Master of the Train and Serjeant Matthews to the Vacant Lieutenancy by the Death of Lieut. Hilford of the Train. In regard to the Lieut. Seaton of the Artillery at Vizagapatam who Major Lawrence says Capt. Crompton advises him had been put in the Pillory for Theft &ca. he was first introduc'd into the Service of Mr Morse on account of his Capacity & sent to Vizagapatam as Gunner in which Station he has acted for several years so much to the Satisfaction of his Superiours that he was thought deserving of Preferment and about eighteen months ago appointed a Lieutenant of Artillery; On Enquiry into the Grounds of Captain Crompton's Accusation it appears that many years ago Mr Seaton commanded a Sloop employed between this Place & Fort St. David and some Liquors being sent by that Vessell from hence to Mr Auguston Burton then Deputy Governour which turn'd out deficient he without any Enquiry or Proof caus'd Mr Seaton to be tyed up to the Flag staff and publickly whipp'd, an action which at that time was look'd upon by every Body to be extremely arbitrary and unjust & it is the Opinion of many Gentlemen who recollect the Affair that Mr Seaton was not guilty of the Embezzlement.

General Letter from Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly read as follows

Honble Gentlemen Trichenopoly September 30th. 1753.

Major Lawrence has communicated to me a Paragraph in your late Letter to him by which I find that it is not agreeable to you that I am reliev'd from the Command of this Place.

When I made Application at first to Mr Saunders on this head I flatter'd myself that you would have readily indulg'd me in it in consideration of the time I have been in the field. However as I find to the contrary and it would give me the greatest Concern to incur the Displeasure of your Honble Board I shall in consequence of your Directions continue to take the same care I have always done of the Place for two months longer, and if you judge proper to nominate the Officer who is to succeed me I shall in that time make him thoroughly acquainted as much as lies in my Power with not only the Fort & Foible of the Garrison but likewise the nature and different Interests of the People round us.

At the Expiration of the abovemention'd Time I must request your Permission to resign the Service and return to Europe in the January Ships, my constitution being so totally ruin'd that nothing but a cold Climate can reinstate me.

Many of my Friends can inform you that it was the Situation of my Post only that prevented my applying to you before for leave to go home in the Ships that sail

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*———

this month but at present the great Success of our Arms has alter'd the Scene much for the better and given me the Opportunity I long wish'd for of addressing you on this Subject.

I can't conclude without observing to you Gentlemen that the Number of European Prisoners which are now here are highly improper to be kept in this Garrison where underhand Schemes are so subject to be put in Execution. Exclusive of this they take not only a great Part of my Force to guard them but as they are now considerably increas'd they consume as much Provisions as your Troops under my Command who compose the Garrison of the Place. I could alledge many other Strong reasons on this head but hope that from what I have already said you'll please to take it into Consideration and order them to be sent to Fort S^{t}· David.

The Shroff makes great Difficulties in supplying me with money for the Use of my Command. I gave him a Bill on you a month ago for Pag^{s}· 5000 and I have not receiv'd a farthing of it yet.

I am with the greatest Respect

Honble Gent^{n}·

Your most Obedient and
Very humble Servant

J. Dalton.

Agreed that if Captain Dalton cannot be prevail'd on to continue in the Command at Trichenopoly at a time when experienc'd Officers are of such Signal Service he be permitted to resign and in such case that Major Lawrence be desir'd to appoint home *(Sic)* he shall judge best qualified to take the Charge of Trichenopoly and that Captain Dalton be directed to get all his Accounts since his first entering on that Command to the time of his resigning fairly drawn out and sign'd by the Nabob to prevent any after disputes.

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq at S^{t}· David read as follows.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}
President and Governour &c Council
of Fort S^{t} George.

Honble Sir and Sirs — Fort S^{t}· David 12th· October 1753.

I am favour'd with the Receipt of your Letter of the 8th· Instant wherein though my request does not appear to be comply'd with in the manner I had reason to expect; it affords me some Satisfaction to see that my Arguments have been so far consider'd as to lead you to admit of my having a Guard of Seapoys to escort me to Tanjour. Had your Hon. &c. have given me your Permission for this before the Thought of a Recompense would scarce have enter'd my Head but how could you possibly think that this could be obtain'd from a Garrison that is already but too greatly drain'd without your particular Leave is not in my power to conceive. You seem to lay great Stress upon the Advices you have receiv'd from Major Lawrence with respect to the Communication being entirely open; This I am well assur'd was he present to answer, was only meant with Regard to Hircaras or the entrusting of a single Person with either Letters or Money and this I am apt to think you will all readily allow is much more likely to get safe & unsuspected than a Person who must be carried in a Palankeen and followed by some Baggage and Retinue which though I am inclinable to lessen as much as possible I can reduce no more than to one Palankeen, 4 Dooleys, besides Chests, Trunks & Parcels, containing my Provisions and Necessaries. And can your Honour &c think that all this without an Escort, is not enough to expose me to the Mercy of any ten Horsemen that come to a Knowledge of me. Whether these Arguments are to be term'd trifling or not

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I humbly submit to the Judgment of my Hoñble Masters, as I do likewise the Justness of your Reflection in regard to my want of Publick Spirit, being convinc'd that they as well as every one will allow had I wanted Spirit to insist on my own Rights, I should have been the improperest Person you could have fix'd on for this Commission wherein the Rights of Nations are committed solely to my Conduct. Neither can I admit that your Aspersion on my Ignorance relating to the Extraordinary Allowances made to the Officers and Men in the Field is at all more just and this I shall have no Difficulty to explain to my Honble Masters whenever Occasion requires. Though the many Fortunes that have been already made amongst them must sufficiently speak that they have not gone out for nothing which is too plain to be discern'd the Terms you intend for me. However as I am well satisfied that all further Remonstrances on this Subject will only prove the prolonging of Time to no purpose I conclude with letting you know that a true and perfect Zeal for the Interest of my Honble Masters, as well as the strict Regard I bear for the Publick Service are the only Inducements which prompt me to undertake the Commission you have fix'd on me, in the Execution of which I intend to proceed as soon as possible and remain with due Respect

Hoñble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient humble Servant
THOMAS COOKE.

Agreed in answer to M^r^ Cooke's Letter that he be told that his endeavouring to excuse his Conduct by saying had an Escort been allow'd him before he should not have thought of asking for a Recompence is a mere pretence since he declares in one of his Letters his Intention of going to Negapatam by water and the rest of the way he would pass through the Country of an Ally whence it is plain his Views were only to get a Sum of Money.

Agreed that M^r^ Starke be desir'd to send us up a Copy of his Camp Correspondence to be forwarded to our Honble Masters by the Delawar.

The President lays before the Board the Country and Military Correspondence amongst which is a Letter from M^r^ George Dawson in justification of himself on the Complaint made by Major Lawrence in his Letter dated 29^th^ August & 16^th^ September viz^t^

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^R^

Hoñble Sir

By a Letter from M^r^ Starke I am inform'd that Captain Ridge has been pleas'd to accuse me of Neglect in putting up the Stores sent with his Command, therefore humbly beg Leave to assure your Honour that his Accusation is through mistake for as the Stores were pack'd up at Fort S^t^ David & sent me in good Condition so they were committed to his Charge loaded upon Cooleys and Bullocks, The Accident that might happen on the Road from the Cooleys deserting and proper Care not being taken of them hope I am not answerable for.

In regard to the Ill Treatment of the Officers I am entirely a Stranger to; They all seem'd content excepting Captain Ridge who as I had the Pleasure to acquaint you before was displeas'd with his Lodging though I endeavour'd all in my Power by Reasons and Apologies to reconcile for my demanding the Use of my Room; as these Aspersions may prejudice me in the favour; I don't doubt but an impartial Hearing whenever I have the pleasure of being permitted to wait on you will convince that whatever Steps I have taken since M^r^ Pybus left me here, have been with a sole view of maintaining a good Character and recommending myself to the Esteem of my Honble Masters.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*——

Inclos'd is the State of our Hospital & return of the Garrison for last Month.

I am with the greatest Submission and Respect

Honble Sir

Your most Obedient humble Serv^t

Devecotah
4th. October 1753.

GEORGE DAWSON.

The Nabob in a Letter to the President dated the 15th. September gives him full Powers to treat with M^r Dupliex and even conclude a Peace on such Terms as he shall think proper. Other Letters from the King of Tanjour, Sundry Poligars and Officers in Garrison contain nothing material.

THO^s. SAUNDERS
CHA^s. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^R. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^s. BOURCHIER

The 18th The following Letters to Major Lawrence, M^r Cooke and Cap^t. Dalton were this day sign'd and sent agreeable to Resolution of last Consultation.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^R.
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALL THE COMPANY'S FORCES
IN INDIA.

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letters of the 27th. Ultimo and 2^d Instant with the Returns of your Command, Officers and private Men and one from Cap. Dalton which he should have deliver'd you.

Our Accounts of the Number of the French are not near so great as what you write us. By the last Action they must have been greatly diminish'd, it is reported upwards of a hundred have been sent from Caricall to Pondicherry and several Men and Officers have pass'd Trivedy, some with and some without Arms which probably may be those that were reported to you to be in Tondaman's or the Tanjour Country.

Having a Conveyance of the Prince George we have ordered a Reinforcement to Devecotah.

The Want of Officers is obvious but if Captain Dalton insists on going home we can't refuse him in this Case you will appoint such Officer to relieve him as you judge most capable; and if the Nabob signs the Accounts during his Command at Trichenopoly, it will prevent Disputes which might arise after he was gone.

When M^r Palk came in he told us there was no Occasion for Remittances for that Buckunjee's People would give them, we have since paid several drawn on us and several others given on his People at Tanjour, on sending for him he expresses a Readiness to do it, inclos'd is a Letter from him to his Correspondent; Several Bills have been his People at S^t. David, M^r Starke has also orders to send Money by Peons and on the Prince George we send a large Supply which we hope will answer the purpose for laying in Provisions which we look upon as the first Step to be taken.

You write us Captain Crompton advises you we have sent a Lieutenant of the Train to Vizagapatam who for Theft & Malepractices had stood in the Pillory and that no Officer will rank with him; you cannot suppose we would prefer a Person of such a Character; the Lieut^t. of Artillery at Vizagapatam was first introduc'd

——FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.——

into the Service by Mr. Morse for his Abilities and has been Gunner's Mate & Gunner there these ten years. Mr Morse is on the Spot, the Man is known to several other Gentlemen but no one knows this; Captain Crompton ought to prove his Assertion and if he does not we think he is not fit to rank with any one.

We approve the Promotion of Lieut. Revell as Quartermaster of the Train and as a Reward for his Gallant Behaviour confirm Serjeant Matthews to be a Lieut. of the Train.

We are inform'd the French are sending Supplies of Men and Stores to Syringam and wish Moraree's Intention may be sincere, the Nabob judg'd right to propose Terms just after the Enemy were routed, this Success may probably induce the Daloway to be more moderate in his Demands but will not enable the Nabob to support the Expence of the War, we therefore continue to think Peace is the measure to be pursued and desire you will take all Opportunities of advising him to it by pointing out to him the absolute Necessity of it. Some Letters have pass'd between us & Mr. Dupliex we propos'd as a Basis Mahomed Ally Cawn's being Nabob of the Carnateck and the king of Tanjour not to be molested, he has not yet communicated to us his Terms nor do we conceive he has any sincere Intention for Peace; We wish the Nabob's Negotiations may meet with Success; before this last Action the Daloway's Demand was absolutely fix'd and the Nabob determin'd not to grant it, we doubt much whether the Terms mention'd in the Proposals will be accepted.

It is reported that Salabat Jung apprehensive of Balazarow had recall'd Mons Bussy who was on his March to Aurangabad, the French have sent several Reinforcements to Metchlepatam amongst which were several of the Swiss and English that were Prisoners in Pondicherry. We want Captain Schaubs Returns to be truly inform'd of the Matter.

The Nabob's Accounts are compleatly brought up to the End of August; it will be necessary he should sign them but 'twould be improper as they contain several Sections to send them to him, please to desire him to send a Power to his Divan Sumpetrow to examine them and if he finds them right to sign them in his Behalf.

We are

Sir

Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXADER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort St George
18th. October 1753.

To THOMAS COOKE Esqr.

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 12th wherein you say if an Escort had been allowed you the Thoughts of a Recompence would not have enter'd into your head, look back in your Letter wherein you told us you intended to go to Negapatam in a Boat and to ours wherein we told you the Major advis'd us the Communication was open and though you put a Meaning on it to excuse your Conduct it yet will appear trifling as the Major has again wrote us so besides you know you was to go through the Country of an Ally the King of Tanjour; how greatly do you exaggerate the Dangers your Life would be expos'd to, Dangers that the true and perfect Zeal

for your Honble Masters which you so warmly express could not prevail upon you to meet but a dirty Pecuniary Reward of 1000 Pagodas in hand would have surmounted and certainly your Zeal except by your own Calculation will never be esteem'd at that Sum ; Thus have you at a juncture when Affairs required dispatch, trifled away near a month a conduct so injurious to the Publick Service we assure you we cannot but highly disapprove.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

Fort St. George
18th October 1753

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

To CAPTAIN JOHN DALTON

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 30 Sept setting forth a bad State of Health which nothing but a cold Climate can reinstate and your request of resigning your Command in January to return to Europe. The Service certainly stands in need of Officers but if you continue this Resolution We have desir'd Major Lawrence who is on the Spot to nominate such Officer as he judges proper to relieve you. On your resigning the Command 'twill be necessary you leave your Accounts from the time of your being there and get them sign'd by the Nabob which will prevent any disputes afterwards—Buckunjee's People assure us they constantly pay the amount of the Bills, we have sent a Letter for his People. We are very sensible that the Nabobs having so many Prisoners at Trichenopoly must be a great Inconvenience in respect to the Garrison and Provisions and we wish it could be remov'd, there are almost treble the Number of the Garrison at St. David already—you will therefore consult with Major Lawrence that the Nabob take the most Effectual Measures to prevent Mischief.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort St. George
the 18th. October 1753.

19th. Sent a General Letter to Richard Starke Esq. as follows.

To RICHARD STARKE Esqr.

DEPUTY GOVERNOUR of FORT ST. DAVID.

Sir

As it is necessary all the Camp Correspondence should be sent to Europe for our Honble Masters Inspection and what has pass'd from hence being contain'd in our private Occurrences which will be forwarded by the Delawar, we think it very proper that all the Letters that may have been wrote by you to Camp and the Several Officers on Detachment abroad and receiv'd from them which in any Shape relate to

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*——

the Military Transactions and the Country Government should also be transmitted and therefore must desire that you will order the same to be copied directly and sent us as soon as compleated to be forwarded also if possible in the Delawars Packet.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends & Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort S^{t} George
19$^{th.}$ October 1753.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present.* Monday the 22d.

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq$^{R.}$ Gov$^{R.}$ PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The President lays before the Board a Letter to the Secret Committee from David Hunter Esq. at the Negrais receiv'd by the Honble Company's Sloop Porto Bello as follows.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Under this Cover I transmit to your Hon^{r} &c. the Occurrences Transactions and Accounts from the time of my Arrival here, and in this I shall as briefly as I can recapitulate the most material Circumstances with my Observations on the Situation of our Affairs to the best of my Judgment.

We arriv'd here the 26th April and the same day landed some of our Forces under the Point of the Island which Mr. Taylor had chose for the Place of his Settlement, but on my examining it's Situation I found it by no means fit, the want of Water was an unsurmountable Objection besides other Inconveniencies wherefore with the Concurrence of my Officers I determin'd to try further up the River pretty near the N E Point which had the Reputation of affording Plenty of Good Water.

After a Search of a day or two we found a Spring of good Water and the Situation in other respects appearing favourable I determin'd to fix here.

By the 5$^{th.}$ of May we had so far succeeded in clearing the Ground of the thick and almost impervious Wood, that we had room to form our Camp in it, that day we pitch'd our Tents & I with all our Military took our Quarters ashore.

The Difficulty we had to get at the Water for our immediate Use induc'd me to turn our Work that way and we succeeded so well that by the 12$^{th.}$ we open'd an Avenue to the Watering Place about four hundred Yards in Length and a hundred foot abroad.

Our People had work'd so well that I thought proper that Evening to give orders for a Party of them to go a hunting the next day or otherwise to divert themselves as they lik'd but contrary to my Expectation I found this was the Eve to a day Fraught with some melancholy Events and which had been very near fatal to the Expedition as well as to the Lives of every Soul of us; I need not trouble your Hon$^{r.}$ &c. with the Circumstances of the horrid Conspiracy as they are related fully in the Occurrences that I beg Leave to remark that it was happy for us that the Coffreys chose the Fire Arms for their weapons, whereas if they had made use of the Hatchets Bilhooks and other Instruments which were daily in their Hands for cutting down the Trees they had certainly compleated their Bloody Purpose to our utter Destruction; I do not mean by this to extenuate what will be deem'd Carelessness in not guarding our Arms better, it was certainly a Fault which Providence directed to save us, and when all Circumstances are consider'd I hope our Officers will be excus'd. It was M^{r} Bilhocks Guard that night and to do him Justice I neve[r] knew him

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either negligent or wanting in his Duty nor have I seen one of our Military in Liquor since I have been here but your Hon^{r}. &c. knows how few we had so that the Duty lay hard on them, and I'll venture to say that the utmost Diligence would not have prevented the Bloody Purposes of those determin'd Villains.

After we had drove the Coffreys from our Camp they retir'd to the other Side of the Island where they remained in great Tranquillity till Captain Mainwaring was prevail'd on to spare me some of his People which enab[led] me to form a Body of Seventy two, these I divided into Th[ree] Divisions and the Front & Rear into two Subdivisions each that they might act Separately as Occasion should offer, having form'd my Plan and given such Instructions as I thought necessary we began our March and ere the Dawn of the Morning we were within forty or fifty yards of the Enemy undiscover'd; my orders were for the Front Division to march up to the Enemy's Tents and to run their Bayonets into them before they fired but some of our too hasty sailors began at the above Distance to fire though they saw nothing and the same Wildness running through the whole Battalion, even the Rear Ranks of the Rear Division fir'd through the Midst of us but happily most of them over our Heads, with my Sword I struck some of them to make them keep up their Fire but in vain and it was some time before I could get them to form into a Body again, when I had brought them to some Order, I detach'd the Sub Divisions into different Quarters of the Wood in pursu[it] of the Enemy who had taken to their heels and I believe they all escap'd unhurt, however they were compleately routed and stripp'd of their Plunder, all but the Money which belong'd to me and was about a thousand Spanish Dollars that they had either buried or found means to carry off with them. Afte[r] that I frequently sent pretty strong Parties to hunt and dispossess them of their new Quarters and in a little Time they were so harrass'd that they quitted the Island on Logs of Wood and such Contrivances as their desperate Circumstan[ces] oblig'd them to, one of them endeavouring to gain the other Side was brought by the Tide in sight of us; I order'd a Boat to take him up and immediately put him in Irons on examining his Character I found he had been one of the leading Men among them, wherefore a few days after I order'd a Court Martial to try him, the Court in which I presided, were Cap^{t}. Mainwaring, Cap^{t}. Grierson, Cap^{t}. Bond, M^{r} Bilhock, M^{r} Knapton, M^{r}. North and M^{r}. Brooke, all the Gentlemen were of Opinion that he should suffer Death, except Cap^{t}. Mainwaring & M^{r} Brook who urg'd that as a Slave they thought he had a Right from the law of Nature to use all Means to obtain his Liberty and further they thought I had not sufficient Authority to order a Court Martial on Tryals of Life and Death; I thought their Arguments no way consistent with the General Good and having a great Majority I sentenc'd him to dye but have thought proper to postpone the Execution 'till I know your Hon^{r}. &c. Opinion.

I had offer'd to any one who should bring in any number of the Coffreys twenty Rupees a head, the Peguers have brought six of them for which they are paid at that rate we have pick'd up three more who surrender'd themselves being half starved, so we have now ten in all viz^{t}. Seven Men and three Women. I believe most of the rest are dead, I have heard the Peguers have kill'd some of them and I am inform'd a few of them have got to Pegu.

I must beg Leave to refer your Hon^{r}. &c. to the Literary Correspondence in the Occurrences for the Situation of our Affairs with the Pegu Government.

The Reputation of our Forces seem'd at first to fling them into some Consternation and their fears I believe induc'd them to flatter M^{r} Westgarth with fair Promises but notwithstanding all we have done and the Concessions they have made I am yet far from depending on their Sincerity, the Troubles they are at present involv'd in with the former Lords of the Country about Ava takes up most of their Attention and not without Reason if I am rightly inform'd. The Family who lately possess'd the Government have a strong Party and gain Ground daily and I think it is very probable they may in a short time recover their Kingdom again. The present King of Pegu was formerly a Silver Smith at Syrian and his Brother the Upparajah was a Writer in the Alfantiga. I am told the People in general talk contemptuously of them so far as they dare under the Yoke of an

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Absolute Tyrant, it seems a Mob rais'd him to the Dignity and it is not unlikely the same fluctuating Spirit may soon pull him down again, if this should happen our Presents and our Sollicitation has hitherto been to very little Purpose however it shall be my Study to take all the Advantages I can of the Circumstances that may happen and in the mean time I am endeavouring to fortify a Place as near as possible to the Water but for want of hands the Work goes heavily on, this month past we have not been able to do any thing all our Artificers and Lascars being sick and at best good for very little, the Violent Rains too has greatly impeded our Work.

To give your Hon^r. &c. an Idea of what I have design'd I herewith inclose a Sketch of the Situation and Work I am carrying on and if by any means I could get a few Carpenters and Cooleys or Lascars I should soon perfect it so as to make it a Place of sufficient Defence against all the Powers of Pegu.

Your Hon^r. &c. will observe by some of my Letters in the Occurrences how solicitous I have been to get a Resident fix'd at Persaim, a place about sixty Miles from hence, which lies much more convenient for Trade than Syrian or Pegu M^r. Taylor who arriv'd here the 9^th Instant brought with him the Raja's Order to the Gov. there to admit us and as our being possess'd of that Place appears to me to be most essential I dispatch'd him thither the 12^th instant with orders to reside there in the best Manner he could for the present.

If ever we shall be so fortunate as to have our Affairs settled with the Pegu Government, I think that Place Persaim must be the Head Settlement, it lies in the center of Trade and is able to subsist any number of Men whereas the Negrais has neither of those Advantages. The Approaches to this Place from the Rivers lies open to the Sea and makes it extremely dangerous for the Country Boats to pass or repass and there are no Villages between this and Persaim so that it will be always expensive and troublesome to provide necessaries for any Number of Men in doing this I have found great Difficulty for though there are Deer and Buffaloes on the Island they are hard to come at and dangerous too for the Multitude of Tigers I employed three of our Soldiers to kill deer for us at two Rupees a head and 'till of late they have had tolerable Success but the only good Marksman among them falling sick we are at present at a Loss and as I think it will be a long time before we can have a Certainty of being supply'd with the produce of the Country even for the small number we have it will be necessary to procure a Quantity of Salt Beef and Pork that we may have some Resource in case of Necessity, all that we brought with us has been long since us'd and the poor Fellows have been oblig'd some times to go with hungry Bellies. I reckon about half a Cask of Beef or Pork a man will be a tolerable Provision and so in proportion to what Number of Men your Hon^r. &c. shall supply this Garrison with, and here I beg Permission to offer my Opinion in regard to the Number necessary for the Defence of the Place.

If a Europe Ship is permitted to attend us, about thirty European Soldiers and thirty Topasses will be sufficient but the Attendance of a Europe Ship being very expensive and in my Opinion their Service not always to be relyed on. I think about the double Number viz^t. Sixty Europeans, and Sixty Topasses with Officers proportionable will be absolutely necessary.

We have had no Vessel from the Coast or from the Bay since we arriv'd here so that we are greatly in want of most necessaries & for which we must rely on your Hon^r. &ca. Goodness for a Supply.

M^r. Brooke is at present at Syrian where he was sent to concert measures with M^r Westgarth and I expected him here again by the Porto Bello or with M^r. Taylor but having contracted some disorder there he was oblig'd to remain for the Recovery of his Health.

I have lately been greatly afflicted with a violent Pleurisy and Inflammation in the Liver which has help'd to retard our Works for I have none with me acquainted with the Employment of Men or sufficient Knowledge to direct them and it has render'd writing extremely troublesome to me your honour &c. will therefore pardon the Omissions or Want of Method in this Letter and if there appears to be any Error in my Conduct, I hope I shall be excus'd as I am conscious of having done every

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thing to the best of my Judgment for the Good of the Service, and I request of you to represent my Actions to my Honble Masters in as favorable a Light as the Nature of them can admit of.

As the Monsoon here is I think more violent than in any other Place I have seen in India and for that Reason extremely dangerous for any Ship or Vessel to approach the Island or for any Works to be carried on; I would beg your Hon^{r}. &c. Permission to return to the Coast erē the Beginning of that Interval in order to recruit the Loss of Health occasion'd by this and to avoid the next inclement Season which I apprehend I should hardly be able to weather, if it is expedient to grant this Favour I can leave this in March or April and be ready to return as soon as the Monsoon is over next Year, but whether this can be granted or not I beg you will appoint some one here capable to manage our Honble Masters Affairs in case of my Decease or Absence.

I have not been conversant enough with publick Accounts to form a Set of Books agreeable to the method prescrib'd by the Company but I hope the inclos'd Accounts will so far give Satisfaction as to shew the Ballance of the Honble Company's Cash in my Hands and the Disbursements made by me in which I have endeavour'd to be as frugal as possible.

The Arcot Snow proving very leaky we have been obliged to take every thing out of her and She cannot proceed any where 'till we can get her repair'd, which I shall endeavour to do as soon as I can get People, in the mean time I think it necessary to keep the Cuddalore here to be employed in this Service as the necessity of our Affairs may require 'till we are better provided for our Defence ashore. The Fortune Sloop will likewise be of use to us as a Magazine it being dangerous to trust our Powder and Ammunition ashore 'till we can be properly provided, at present She is employed in bringing Turtle from Diamond Island and is the means of subsisting our People.

M^{r}. Taylor brought with him a small Vessel from Syrian nam'd the Mary Schooner, Burthen about nine Ton, as She will be extremely useful in going between Persaim and this Place I have ventur'd to purchase her of M^{r}. Taylor for the Company's Account at a thousand Rupees which I think She is well worth.

We have begun to build some Houses for our Accommodation and I hope soon to take up my Quarters ashore to be more in the way to give my Attention to the Works that are to be carried on when we can procure People for that Purpose.

I have shipp'd on board the Porto Bello sixty Pieces of Timber for the Honble Company's Use, as I think them Strong Wood they will be serviceable for Axle Trees of Gun Carriages, we have very large Timbers here of the same Sort but for want of People to handle them I could not send any.

Yesterday I receiv'd a Letter from M^{r} Taylor from Persaim where I sent him to establish a Factory a Copy of that and of my Letter to him your Honour &c. will find at the End of the Occurrences.

M^{r}. Maul our Surgeon being very much indispos'd I have permitted him to return to the Coast for the Benefit of his Health, this happens extremely unfortunate as I have scarely a man about me either Officer or Private but what are sick.

I have sent by the Porto Bello Serjeant Clark one of the Mutineers and would have sent the other, Jackson, by the same Conveyance but Captain Grierson thought it not safe to trust two such notorious Villains together. I have not given either of them any pay since they have been here because I think they deserve nothing but the Gallows.

I now take my Leave wishing Health & Happiness to your Hon^{r}. &c. & Success to all our Honble Masters Affairs.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs

Your Faithful and most Obed^{t}.
Humble Servant
DAVID HUNTER

Island Negrais
20 Septem. 1753

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*——

Mr. Hunter's Diary of Occurrences is also read but being of too extraordinary a Length to be copied in time for the Delawar's Dispatch Ordered that the Letter only be transcribed and forwarded to our Honble Masters in the Delawars Packet which containing a summary of Mr Hunters Transactions will give them a distinct View of this Expedition and as it is observed that Mr Hunter has not given us his Observations or the Advantages or Inconveniencies of the Harbour at the little Negrais for repairing or careening of Ships it is Agreed that Captain Grierson who is esteem'd an expert Mariner be desired to give his Opinion on that harbour.

In regard to Mr Hunters Request that he may be permitted to come to this Coast for a few Months during the Monsoon there, the Board are of Opinion that as Mr Hunter has been particularly chosen and appointed by our Honble Masters to conduct this undertaking without vesting any Power in this Presidency further than to afford him all the Assistance we are able, we are not authoriz'd to grant his Request to return hither nor have we any one here that can be spar'd more capable to take Charge of our honble Masters Affairs there than Mr Henry Brooke (who was appointed to proceed with Mr Hunter at his Request) Mr Westgarth or Mr. Taylor the two last having from the Beginning been concern'd in the conducting the Negotiation and Expedition must have acquired a better Knowledge than most of the Company's Servants here.

Agreed that the Timber brought in the Porto Bello be landed as soon as possible, that what Provisions can be salted in time be prepar'd to be sent to the Negrais on that Vessell, that as Mr Hunter represents the necessity of a Reinforcement of Thirty Europeans and Thirty Topasses will be necessary, although we can't well spare him any that 30 Military be sent him, and that we write to the Gentn. at Bengal to send one of the Europe Ships of this Season to the Negrais to relieve the Colchester (whose Charter party time expires in February next) with about a hundred Casks of Salted Beef and Pork and some Rice, Gram, Pease &c. and as Mr Hunter is in want of all kinds of Necessaries for his own Table that they be desir'd also to send him every Article of that kind together with all the Artificers and Lascars they can prevail on to go there.

General Letter from Major Lawrence read as follows.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Camp near Trichenopoly 10 Oct. 1753.

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 26 September with the Bills for 10,000 Pagodas on Buckunjee inclos'd. Let me once more acquaint you that it will not answer our Purpose to depend on him.

In regard to your having fully reply'd to my Letters I shall acknowledge it when it appears the Grievances I complain of are redress'd and you perform or absolutely refuse to comply with the Things I request; there is a wide Difference betwixt talking and acting.

The Delays we met with from the King of Tanjour induc'd me to send Mr. Repington to him who is return'd and has brought a further Advance of 20000 Rupees to buy Rice. This sum join'd to what we got before fulfills the King's Promise to Mr. Palk.

The Enemy is on the Island, the Coleroon is swell'd very much, the Monsoon approaches, Our people fall down very fast near four hundred being sick & Monogee complains that his Horses are dying, these Circumstances make Winter Quarters quite necessary which we must shortly take up on the Tanjour Frontiers. I am very sorry Gentlemen that the Delays I have met with render it impossible to carry a Part of the Army to St. David but to what Purpose do I complain & remonstrate when no regard is paid to any thing that comes from me.

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The King of Tanjour is our firm Friend, it requires your Care to keep him so, he acquaints me Bologee Rao is on his March to these Provinces and he hopes to join us. As the Enemy will use their utmost Efforts to gain him, it depends on you to elude their Measures.

The surest Maxim in Politicks and that which will last the longest is "not to "promise or even hint that you can do more than you are able to perform, and when "a Promise is made to keep it religiously" This may acquire new Friends without Risking the Loss of those we have already and I would apply it to the Case of the King of Tanjour and the Daloway for it appears to me that Justice & Honour oblige us to protect the former.

I have heard nothing of M^{r}· Cooke whom you think a more proper Person to send to Camp than two of your own Body that know all Secrets if we have any which however I profess myself to be ignorant of, I believe I could give another Reason why you don't chuse to separate which I shall do myself the honour to acquaint you with when I see you.

M^{r}· Starke acknowledg'd my Letter of the 22^{d} September long ago, but I have not been favour'd with any Answer from you. Nothing further occurs to me at present that has not already been mention'd.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient Servant

S. LAWRENCE

To the Honble Tho^{s}· Saunders Esq.
President & Gov. &c. Council of
Fort S^{t}· George.

The President acquaints the Board that on Receipt of the foregoing Letter he sent for Buckunjee's People who were very ready to undertake the Remittance of a further Sum of Money to Tanjour for the use of the Army and although Major Lawrence complains that it will answer no purpose to depend on them yet as it may be some days before the Prince George can be dispatch'd and Buckunjee's People promise Punctuality, it is Agreed that ten thousand Pagodas be remitted in their Bills on Tanjour for the use of the Army.

The Country Correspondence & Sundry Letters from Arcot, Changleput &c. are also read but contain nothing material.

25th General Letter from Major Lawrence receiv'd this day is as follows.

Honble Sir & Sirs Camp near Trichenopoly 14th· Oct. 1753.

I have receiv'd your Letter of Congratulation on the last Battle.

In regard to the Stores that were spoil'd in coming from Devecotah, Captain Ridge complains that it was owing to the Obstinacy & Opposition of M^{r}· Dawson who would deliver nothing as it should be. The Behaviour of this young Gentleman to all our Officers has been very extraordinary and merits a strict Enquiry when Occasion offers.

You surprize me by representing Devecotah as a losing Settlement, not to mention that it keeps the King of Tanjour in our Interest by it's Situation I could point out several Methods whereby it might be made a saving one if private Interest did not take Place of the publick Good—I shall lay my Thoughts on this Subject before our Honourable Masters by the next Ships.

It has been told me that the three Capt^{s}· from England take place of Mess Grant & Grenville and by the Commissions not being fill'd up of the Captain Lieut^{t}. & other Gentlemen who have an undoubted right to come in before them, the two former were nominated by you to fill up the Vacancies last Christmas; This is the highest

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Injustice and what I can never agree to. If you are determin'd to go on in this manner disgusting all the Gentlemen who have served well & deserved better at your hands. I can't pretend to command the Army. What Zeal is to be expected from Troops who find it out of the Power of their Commander to do them Common Justice.

Captain Ridge's Detachment was suffer'd to march from Devecotah without a Surgeon. How miserably are poor Soldiers the Support of our Settlements treated? The Opposition to the Military will ruin the Company if continued which God forbid.

The President promis'd you would consider of the Affair of holding General Courts-Martial. I hear nothing of it.

A Resident at Tanjour is absolutely necessary Mr. Palk from the Service he has already done us is the fittest for it and will come if you ask him.

Morarow's Messages are come to nothing as I at first expected. We must canton the Troops in four or five days or we shall not have a man left alive.

My Spying Glass is broke; Be so kind as to furnish me with three or four good Ones if you can procure them; I should likewise be glad of some handsome Arms & other little Things for Presents to our Allies which are expected and I have hitherto been oblig'd to provide at my own Expence.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

The Honble Thos. Saunders Eqr.
President & Governour &c. Council
of Fort St. George.

The following Letter having been Communicated to the several Gentlemen of Council the following Answer was agreed on and sent vizt.

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr.

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letters of the 10th & 14th. in the former you acknowledge the receipt of the Bills on Buckunjee's People for Ps. 10,000; these People assure us of their greatest readiness to negotiate them, as you say you meet with difficulty we have order'd Mr Starke to send you the money, he writes us he has sent you a small Sum which if it gets safe he will send more it is attended with great Risk from St. David to Devecotah is in the Enemy's Possession so that he will we suppose send it first to Devecotah by Boat--however we have sent you Bills for Ps. 10000 more for fear of Accidents and the Prince George will carry a large Supply to St. David.

Our answers to your Several Letters we submit to our Honble Masters.

In regard to Winter Quarters or any motions to be made as you are on the Spot we desire you will act as you judge for the Good of the Service. What may occur here or at St. David we & Mr Starke will advise you of.

Your Maxim of Politicks is just; the King of Tanjour is in Alliance with the Nabob and us against a common Enemy, we therefore desire you will afford such Protection to him as may prevent his Suffering, in regard to the Daloway the Nabob will do nothing with him without including the King of Tanjour. Balazarow on his Departure promis'd to return how easy was it for him when he was near us by sending a few of his Troops to have settled the Province; any Dependence on him is precarious, why may he not again be bought off for twenty five Lack; it is reported he & Salabat Jung are not on friendly Terms which has induc'd the latter to recall Mr. Bussy & his Troops and Mr. Dupliex to send Reinforcement to the Northward.

——FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.——

We sent Mr Cooke as we thought him the properest Person and one that could best be spar'd.

Mr. Dawson has wrote us a Letter in regard to the Officers, a Copy of which we send you inclos'd.

Devecotah never can be a Saving Settlement to the Company till stripp'd of it's Charges, it's Situation is bad and it's River instead of admitting of Ships of Burthen will but at particular Times admit of small Vessels and the only increase that can be made is at the Expiration of the Cowle granted by Mr. Floyer &c. Council to endeavour to let it out on better Terms.

Our former Letters will shew that we wrote our Honble Masters for Officers and the Vacancies were kept open for them and this we likewise Submit to the Honble Company.

We are very sensible of the necessity for having a number of Surgeons & entertain in the Service as many as we can get. We think it would be imprudent to leave our Garrisons without them.

Mr. Palk was desired to go to Camp but absolutely declin'd it alledging he could be of no Service. We will endeavour to prevail on him to go.

We are sorry the Nabob's Offers were not accepted which convinces us that the Affair rests just on the same point it did.

By the Prince George we shall forward some Spying Glasses.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servant

Fort St George
25th. October 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

P.S. Our attention is at present entirely taken up by the Delawar's Dispatch for Europe who will leave us in a few days when we shall give you a determinate Answer in regard to General Court's Martial.

Tuesday The 30th

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR GOV. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The following Letter from Capt. Grierson having been omitted to be enter'd in these Occurrences under it's proper Date is order'd to be enter'd here.

TO THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQR.

Honble Sir

According to your Desire I here give you an account of the Negrais and it's Harbour as follows.

The Island call'd the little Negrais lies in Lat. about 16 : 10 North situated at the Entrance of a large navigable River and between it & the main (or what is generally call'd the Great Negrais) is a very good Harbour, where Ships of the Greatest Burthen may ride at Anchor in 5, 6 or 7 fathom soft Mud, with much Safety in the S.W. Monsoon which is the time of bad Weather on that Coast; in the harbour on Springs the Tide runs 3 or 4 Knotts & rises 8½ feet Perpendicular so that any large Ships which want repairs if they cannot be brought to that Draught of Water must be hove down but such Vessels as can be brought under that may be haul'd ashore

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and repair'd. The Harbour is of very easy Access to those that are the least acquainted; the least Water in the Entrance is 4½ fathoms but those who are entirely strangers may be deceiv'd in coming in by the Flood setting across the Entrance upon a Reef which is kept on the Starboard Side going in; From the above particulars you will be able to judge of the Conveniency attending the Negrais with regard to large Ships.

I am Honble Sir

Fort St. George
24 Octr. 1753

Your Honrs. most Obedient and most humble Servant
WILLM. GRIERSON

General Letter from Major Lawrence read as follows vizt.

Honble Sir & Sirs No. 6.

This serves to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter No. 4 with the Duplicates of your two former which I have answer'd long since. We mov'd here the 18th in order to canton the Troops before the Rains come on and if the Weather continued fair to go up the Island before Jumbekisseram.

I am not a little surpriz'd at your Acquainting me of your not having sent home Muster Rolls of the Military to our Honble Masters, when I have constantly forwarded Returns; and Mr Palk, when the time admitted, Musters, which you should have had more frequent had I thought it prudent to shew our Strength in the face of an Enemy. I now inclose a General Return of my Command and in a few days Mr. Maunsell will send you a Muster. In the Rolls sent monthly to the Paymaster you could have always been furnish'd with the Names and so have made Muster Rolls out yourselves, I have not time for this and am I really ignorant how many Companies we have you keep me so in the dark.

You promis'd to send me Powers for holding General Courts Martial but I have heard nothing from you concerning them, We have now three Deserters and from the many we have had, who I have been oblig'd to pardon, fear the Consequences merely through want of Examples. The Company at my coming out said I should be invested with the full Powers on these Occasions and I am resolved unless I have them to continue no longer in the field.

The Enemy have been join'd by some Europeans & three Guns and as I hear expect another Detachment shortly we have four Officers wounded in Trichenopoly & two sick with Pollier & Repington by the Surgeon's Advice gone to St. David, besides several incapable of Duty here which has oblig'd me to nominate Messrs Benjamin Devisme, Brook Samson, John Donavan & Martin Clerk to act as Ensigns 'till your Pleasure shall be known. I beg you will observe what I have wrote so often, "the filling up of Vacancies the moment they happen" for the Service requires it.

I receiv'd a Letter from Mr Cooke yesterday dated the 13th who acquaints me that he'll set out in four or five days by Sea for Negapatam. Little he thinks of this delay and the Necessity of his Presence at Tanjour where the French Interest is prevailing more & more daily.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient humble Servant
S. LAWRENCE

Camp near Coiladdy
21st October 1753.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.
President & Governour &c. Council
of Fort St. George.

—— FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.——

The Presdt. lays before the Board a Lett^{r} to him from M^{r} Lawrence as follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}

Sir

Inclos'd is a Letter from the Nabob which if rightly explain'd to me is the Proposals he impowers you to make for him. I have been always of Opinion that a Peace is absolutely necessary but think that the last Proposal would be a greater Detriment to the Company than the Loss of the whole Debt, however I submit every thing to your Superiour Judgment as you have put it entirely out of my Power to meddle in any Negotiation.

In the Letter is one for the Nabob's Vakeel, if you judge the Affair should be a kept a Secret he will explain it to you. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant

S. Lawrence

Camp near Coiladdy
21 October 1753.

The Letter from the Nabob mention'd to be inclos'd in the foregoing empowers the President to make Peace with the Daloway on either of the following Terms viz^{t}

1st That the Mysoreans be allow'd what money they advanc'd the Nabob, Moraree & Tondaman until the Death of Chunda together with five Lacks of Rupees for the Dalloway's Charges to that time and that Tinnevelly & Madura Countries may be mortgag'd as a Security for the Payment.

2^{d} Should the Mysoreans demand the whole Sum they have hitherto expended it may be objected that they have put the Circar to a very great Expence and ruin'd the Country, notwithstanding which the said Tinnevelly & Madura Countries may be made over as aforesaid.

3^{d} If this should be rejected the whole Trichenopoly Country except the Fort may be mortgag'd to him 'till their Money be paid provided they expell Morarow and enter into an Alliance offensive and defensive with him, the Nabob, and assist him in settling the Arcot Country.

4th In case a Peace cannot be effected on these Terms and the Mysoreans insist on the Fort, he (the Nabob) is oblig'd to agree to it, in which case they formerly promis'd him a Sum of Money and a good Fort and fruitful Country producing two Lacks of Chuckrums in any part of the Country he might chuse, to enter into an Alliance & act with him in punishing the French, and to expel Moraree & settle the Arcot Province, these Terms must therefore be demanded and in regard to the Sum of Money to be paid by the Mysoreans the whole amount of what has been advanc'd by the Company besides fifteen Lacks of Rupees must be insisted on.

In regard to the Major's Complaint in his foregoing separate Letter that the President has put it entirely out of his Power to meddle in any Negotiation, the Board look upon it as a very extraordinary one as the Major in his Letter * of the 3^{d} August absolutely declines acting as a Minister and complains that he is burthen'd with Business that does not relate to his Command, however the President is desir'd to acquaint him that we should have been glad if he would have undertaken the Negotiations at Camp, and it was only in Consequence of his Refusal and desiring two of the Members of the Board might be sent, that we appointed M^{r} Cooke, notwithstanding which, if it is agreeable to him to act in this Affair either by himself or jointly with M^{r} Cooke we will send him full Powers.

* Ent^{d} in Extra Occurrences 13th August

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*——

As the Major does not declare the Reasons whereon he grounds his Opinion that the Nabob's last Proposal (viz the giving up of Trichenopoly to the Daloway) will be a greater Detriment to the Company than the Loss of their whole Debt, the Board see no Cause to alter their Sentiments on this Subject but are rather daily confirm'd in them, especially as the Supplies of Money this year receiv'd from Europe would scarcely suffice to defray the immense Expence the Company are at on the Nabob's Account exclusive of any Investment which must on no account be neglected and unless the Nabob is supported with Money as he is able to collect very little of the Rents, the Daloway will inevitably get by force what may now be deliver'd to him by Treaty on very advantagious Terms, this the President is desir'd to acquaint the Major with and desire his Opinion whether in these Circumstances the Company can support the War, and if not, what other means remain to be try'd.

The Clause in the Charter relating to the holding of Courts Martial being read, the Board are of Opinion that by virtue of the plain & obvious Sense of the Words "in time of War and open Hostility" Major Lawrence may be empower'd to assemble and appoint Courts martial in the Field where he certainly is in open Hostility, but that they cannot be construed to extend to this or any other of the Company's Garrison or Settlem^{ts} where Peace & Tranquillity reign; Agreed therefore that a Commission be drawn out empowering Major Lawrence to appoint Courts Martial for the Trial of Offenders according to the Intent and meaning of the Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion during such time and when and as often as the Company's Forces under his Command shall be or continue in the Field in time of War or open Hostility, unless sooner revoked.

Ordered also that a Commission be drawn out appointing Ensign Benjamin Devisme Judge Advocate of the said Courts Martial.

Major Lawrence having recommended Mess^{rs} Benjamin Devisme, Brook Samson, John Donavan & Martin Clerk, Voluntiers, to be made Ensigns. Ordered that Commissions be drawn out for them accordingly and that in future all Vacancies be fill'd up as soon as they happen.

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq. read as follows.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}
President & Governour &c. Council of
Fort S^{t}. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs — Fort S^{t}. David 26th Oct. 1753.

I addresse'd you under Date the 12th Instant informing you of my Intention to proceed on the Commission you have appointed me as soon as possible, I have since apply'd to the Deputy Governour for an Escort agreeable to the Permission given me in your last but was told there is not a man that can be conveniently spar'd from this Garrison I have therefore determin'd on Proceeding to Negapatam and to wait there for an Escort of Horse from the King of Tanjour of which I have by Letter appriz'd him as likewise the Nabob and Major Lawrence and propose setting out for that Place by Sea in three or four days, as this is by every one I have advis'd with allow'd to be the best & nearest Way I rely that you will have no Objection to it. I understand that the Army is still in much distress for money therefore as it will be inconvenient to the Major to supply my Occasions I have requested the Board here to furnish me with 1000 Pagodas but as they have receiv'd no Orders regarding me they have recommended me to draw on your Honour &c which I accordingly now do in favour of M^{r}. Dawsonne Drake for the said Sum, and shall render a just Account thereof at my Return. I should have proceeded by this time but have been deeply engaged in adjusting our General Books and putting them in the utmost forwardness I could for closing which I was the more oblig'd to do for furnishing the Nabob's Account and Quick Stock which your Honour &c were in

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, OCTOBER 1753.*——

immediate Want of for this dispatch. I shall not fail to address you constantly on all Occurrences, and hopeing that my Conduct will in general meet with your Approbation, I remain with due Respect.

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient humℓ. sev.
THOMAS COOKE.

The Bill of Exchange which M^r Cooke mentions in the foregoing Letter to have drawn on us being now presented Ordered that it be accepted and paid when due.

The President lays before the Board a Letter from M^r. Dupliex (N^o. 13) in answer to that wrote him the 11^th Instant wherein he says he is ready to do every thing expedient to satisfy all Parties and desires either that a Person may be sent to him to whom he will communicate his Proposals verbally or that his Deputy and ours may meet at some Place, between Pondicherry and this Settlement or Fort S^t David.

The Board are of Opinion that M^r. Dupliex's declining to make his Proposals in writing has not the Appearance of a sincere Intention to promote Peace, but rather that his View in desiring a Conference is to create a Jealousy in the Nabob and his Allies, it is Agreed therefore to write him an Answer and desire that he will communicate his Proposal in writing which will greatly facilitate the Conference as it will enable us to give our Commissary proper Instructions.

The Country Correspondence &c laid before the Board.

Captain Lin at Changleput requests Sundry Stores may be sent him and incloses an Indent which is ordered to be complied with.

Sanawasa Cherry writes that the whole Amount of what he had collected at Tripoty was thirty two thousand (32000) Rupees and eight thousand four hundred (8400) Pagodas, which Sums he had remitted by Bill on the Savacars, that the Reason he had not collected any more was that Mahomed Camaul having been in possession of that Place the five first days of the Feast receiv'd the Tribute for that Time amounting to upwards of thirteen thousand (13,000) Pagodas, that he has also paid to the Company's Serdar * there two thousand (2000) Rupees & other Sums at different times to the Seapoys.

* Mr. Preston

Ordered that the amount of the said Bills when paid be carried to the Credit of Nabob Anaverdy Cawn; Lieut Preston having omitted to advise the Receipt of the Moneys Sanawasa Cherry mentions to have paid him on account of the Seapoys. Agreed that he be reprimanded and ordered in future to send in exact Accounts of all Moneys that may come to his hands on account of the Circar.

Nazeabulla Cawn writes that having enquir'd very strictly into the Collection at Tripoty he is well assured that Mahomet Camaul did not receive above eight thousand (8000) Pagodas and that Sanawasa Cherry made a very large Collection and has drawn out false Accounts to defraud the Circar, and therefore desires that they may be narrowly inspected.

As it is very probable that Sanawasa Cherry endeavours to take Advantage of Mahamut Camaul's having been in possession of Tripoty at the Beginning of the Feast in the manner Nazeabulla Cawn alledges 'tis Agreed that he be sent for to settle his Accounts here with Sumpetrow the Nabob's Divan.

Abdul Bob Cawn having some time ago (as mention'd in Extraordinary Occurrences 1^st October) remitted ten thousand, five hundred & eighty eight (10588) Madras Pag^s on account of the Tripoty Rents which he values at forty five thousand (45,000) Rupees but as they are not worth that Sum, the President acquaints the Board he had inform'd Sumpetrow thereof, who consented that they should be recoin'd into Current Pagodas at the Nabob's Charge and the Produce thereof carried to his Credit, Ordered that it be done accordingly.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

The Amount of the Nabob's Account being very large and Vouchers for many particulars wanting Agreed that the Gentleman at Fort S$^{t.}$ David be ordered to compleat their Account with the Nabob & send it up to us without Delay and in order to prevent any Disputes that might hereafter arise tis also Agreed that Sumpetrow the Nabob's Duan examine and sign the same if he has no Objection.

The Secretary acquaints the Board that he had by order of the President examin'd sundry intercepted French Letters which the Gentlemen at Fort S$^{t.}$ David sent up hither and that it appears from many of them the Intentions of the French had been to besiege Trichenopoly.

The President lays before the Board a Report (receiv'd from Richard Starke Esq̃) of fifteen French Prisoners at Fort S$^{t.}$ David who had made their Escape out of the Horn Work but being pursued the greatest Part of them were kill'd and the rest taken.

Major Lawrence in his Letter of the 14th desired some Spying Glasses and Small Arms might be sent him for Presents; Agreed that half a dozen Silver and as many Brass Mounted Pistols and Small Arms with a few Spying Glasses be sent to Fort S$^{t.}$ David on the Prince George to be forwarded to Camp.

Agreed also that twenty Military be embark'd on the Prince George for Fort S$^{t.}$ David to be sent from thence by the first safe Conveyance to Devecotah for the Reinforcement of that Garrison.

THO$^{S.}$ SAUNDERS
CHA$^{S.}$ BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A$^{R.}$ WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH$^{S.}$ BOURCHIER

General Letter to David Hunter Esq̃. at the Negrais sign'd & sent ℔ Porto Bello Sloop as follows: 4 th.

To DAVID HUNTER Esq̃.

Sir

We begun to despair of having any Advice from you this Season when the Porto Bello imported here the 21st Ult$^{o.}$ & brought us your Letter of the 20th Sept. with Diaries &c. Papers to which we shall now reply.

We are concern'd at the unlucky Circumstance of the Conspiracy of the Coffreys which indeed we were under some Apprehensions of, it must certainly very much impede your Designs but if the Sloop which the Gentlemen at Bengal advise us of having sent you is arriv'd, it will be somewhat remov'd, probably such of the Coffreys as escap'd to the Main may have been protected by the King of Pegu, should you be appriz'd of it you will demand them representing to his Majesty that the detaining them is contrary to that Treaty of Alliance & Friendship he has made with us. The Regulation observ'd in the West India Colonies in regard to Slaves is the properest for your Government for though the Law of Nature may give them a right to use any means to recover their Liberty yet if there was not some Law or Custom to prevent it Slaves would soon be Masters, had the whole Number or better part of them returned it would have been absolutely necessary to have made an Example to deter the rest; as it is it will we believe be sufficient to keep him in Irons whom you sentenc'd to dye.

When we consider the great Assiduity of our Enemies to inculcate to the King how prejudicial our Settlement of the Negrais must be to the Commerce of his Kingdom, their endeavours to put this Affair in the worst Light and that they will spare no pains to render it abortive, it does not in the least surprize us that he should

——FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1758.——

be averse to our Design, but this we think may be got the better of by time and a Prudent Conduct on our Part. You certainly judge right in being circumspect and not putting such a Confidence in them as might prove fatal to you; a Revolution is very uncertain, the War with the Burmers is very favourable for the Execution of your Plan; we don't conceive they will ever attempt to oppose you openly by force whilst so many Vessels attend you but would rather endeavour to cut off your Supplies of Provisions, to prevent which a Store of six Months will be necessary to be constantly kept and the more expeditious you are in compleating your Works the better. That nothing may be wanting we now send you on the Porto Bello thirty Military and a Doctor with such Provisions and Necessaries as she could take in and have wrote to the Gent^{n} at Bengal to dispatch one of our Honble Masters Ships to relieve the Colchester and by her to supply you with Provisions, Artificers and Lascars on her Arrival you will immediately give Cap^{t} Mainwaring Directions to proceed to Bengal.

As you have an Engineer with you we leave the Fortifications entirely to your Direction, by the Delawar we forwarded Copy of what you sent us to our Hoñble Masters. When Leisure from what may be more immediately necessary will admit we would be glad the Soundings in the Bay were taken and that you would give us your Opinion of the Safety, Convenience or Ill Convenience for repairing & careening Ships of Burthen as well as Small Vessels. We are sorry to observe the Situation is so very unhealthy during the Monsoon but by a Remark made to us that the People on board the Vessels which lay at a very small Distance are not affected we suppose it proceeds from the Thickness of the Woods which when clear'd may probably render it healthy.

M^{r} Brohier represents to us that the Timber sent by the Porto Bello is fit for some use but not of a durable Kind therefore we would have you only send it when Teak is not procurable.

We cannot say any thing conclusive at present concerning Persaim, please to inform yourself thoroughly whether if this Place be settled it will answer the Purpose of Syrian and that we may withdraw from thence. If you find M^{r} Taylors residing there will facilitate your Designs, by all means continue him.

We are sorry for your Indisposition which we hope as the unhealthy Season is past you are recover'd of and should gladly grant your Request of returning to the Coast but have no proper Person to appoint in your Stead; as this Affair is in it's Infancy and the Success of it of the utmost Consequence we are greatly apprehensive it might suffer therefore as Syrian is esteem'd by all a very healthy place we would recommend your Removal there during the Monsoon by which means you would be at hand to give your Directions whenever requisite. M^{r} Brooke was appointed to succeed you in case of Accident, we have no one to send from hence therefore now leave it to you to nominate such Person as you shall judge most capable.

Captain Grierson acquainting us he could not without the hazard of spoiling them carry two Palankeens design'd for the King & Uppa Rajah, it has oblig'd us to keep them 'till a proper Conveyance offers.

On your Appointment to the Negrais we directed Mess. Westgarth & Taylor to deliver to you their amounts which we don't find is done. Inclos'd are the Particulars of what advanc'd & supply'd them with which they must be accountable to you for. As they have sent us no Accounts we cannot form any Judgment of their Expences, on the delivery of them to you, you will examine them and please to see Justice done the Company that they are not overcharg'd and that any Articles are not plac'd to their Account which it would be unreasonable that they should pay.

As you acquint us you are not conversant with the Form us'd in keeping the Company's Books we send you a Copy of the Ingeram Journal Parcels for your Guidance.

M^{r} William Anderson the Surgeon abovemention'd has receiv'd an Advance of one hundred and eighty Rupees and the Detachment their pay for the Current Month.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

We desire you will write us by all Opportunities that we may afford you the proper Assistance.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort S[t] George
4[th] November 1753.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

Monday the 5th Nov.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ[R]. GOV. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

General Letter to Major Lawrence read approv'd and sign'd as follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ[R].
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALL THE COMPANY'S
FORCES IN INDIA

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 21[st] Ult[o].

Such Muster Rolls as you sent we receiv'd. We are sensible of the ill Consequence of their falling into the Enemy's Hands, whenever you find a proper Opportunity we desire you will forward them. The Advices to our Honble Masters are so full & particular that we don't doubt of their supplying us with as many Recruits as their Ships can transport.

We approve your Promotion of Mess. Devisme, Brook Sampson, Donavan & Clarke, the Commissions for the several Officers are drawn out. We shall send you a List tomorrow or the next day.

We were concern'd equally with you at M[r] Cooke's Delay which by the inclos'd Copy of his Letter you will see the Reason of. We have again apply'd to M[r] Palk who tells us that after the Rains and when the Monsoon permits he will proceed to Camp if he can be of any Service.

The Weather preventing the dispatch of the Prince George so soon as we could have wish'd, we forwarded to M[r] Starke Bills for Pag[s]. 10,000 by her since we have sent him a large Supply of Cash with Directions to remit you what you may have occasion for.

Captain Schaub advises us that M[r] Dupliex has inveigled thirty of his men to take Service and we believe some of those taken Prisoners at Trivedy.

By advices from M[r] Hunter we learn he landed at the Negrais the 26[th] of April and is fortifying; An unlucky Accident of a Conspiracy of the Coffreys had near put an End to the Expedition, they have most of them perish'd or got to the main; only Seven Men & Women remaining. The King of Pegu has acceded to the Alliance but does not seem pleas'd with this Expedition.

Rama Naik having been conversant with the Affairs of the Country Powers we have order'd him as a Vakeel first to Tanjour and then to Camp where you may employ him on all Occasions you judge necessary.

We have sent Captains Sanderson and Grant on the Prince George to Fort S[t]. David from whence they are to proceed to Camp.

Captain Maskelyne who is Commandant has Orders and being ask'd assures us he acquaints you with all Military Transactions.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*———

By the Charter receiv'd this year a Power is given to exercise the Law Martial in time of War or open Hostility, the Clause is worded cautiously, it comes inclos'd for your Opinion; We think that by virtue of it Courts Martial may be held in the Field where you are certainly in open Hostility and accordingly a Commission is preparing empowering you to do so which will be sent in a day or two; we must however recommend to you to use it only in Cases of absolute Necessity and even then with as much Lenity as may be consistent with the Safety of the Army.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants

THO^{S}· SAUNDERS, CHARLES BODDAM, HENRY POWNEY, ALEXANDER WYNCH, JOHN SMITH, CHARLES BOURCHIER.

Fort S^{t}· George
5th Novem: 1753.

The President lays before the Board a Letter from him to Major Lawrence which is read and approv'd and is as follows.

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^{R}·
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALL THE COMPY'S
FORCES IN INDIA

Sir

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 21st· Ult^{o}· we should have been glad you could have negotiated Affairs in Camp but your writing to us so expressly that your Military Operations would not allow of it at the same time absolutely declining it we did not press it to you, if you could do it we will send you Powers instead of M^{r}· Cooke.

I agree with you that Peace is absolutely necessary and think with you also that the last Proposal should only be comply'd with at the last Extremity; what Methods can we think of to avoid it; The Nabob's Debt is now upwards of twenty Lack, Expence makes an Addition monthly of above one more and the Consignments from Europe this Season will not I am apprehensive even support theirs only without the Investment, it does not appear to me that he can find means to lessen it or to support his Troops how can he carry on the war or hinder them from taking by Force what they ask by Treaty. The Country has been so ravag'd that neither the Nabob or the French can draw from thence any Supplies of Consequence, M^{r}· Dupliex's Expences last year must have run very high; now I hear the Dalloway pays the Charge of the Troops that are with him but if the Seat of War was remov'd I believe that would be discontinued; Is not this too great a Burthen for his Company as well as ours; does his King bear it? if so can our Company contest the Point? I am afraid not. If they could whoever perseveres and is successful will certainly reap the Benefit, the Question is how it can be done, He has a large Army with Salabat Jung on which indeed is his Chief Dependence exclusive of which his force in this Province join'd to the Mysore and Moratta force keeps the Nabob, King of Tanjore and us at Bay, how often have they been beat, more than once reduc'd to a very low Condition and as often recruited by the large Reinforcements he receives from Europe and the Draughts he makes from the Crews of the Ships he again takes the Field, the Losses sustain'd by the Country Troops being easily replac'd, This is ours and their Situation. M^{r}· Dupliex tells us he is ready to treat and desires a Conference, We ask his Proposals first in Writing and if they can be reconcil'd with ours, viz^{t}· that the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn enjoy the Subahship of the Carnateck and the King of Tanjour enjoy his Country without Molestation We would agree to a Conference; till then decline it as we suspect it might be design'd to create a Jealousy in our Allies, and doubt his Intentions being sincere. If M^{r}· Dupliex will not hearken to Reason the war must continue and the only way we have to distress him is to draw off the Country Powers which I wish could be effected any other way than by the last Proposal so that the only Question

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*———

is whether we should continue to labour under the heavy weight which seems too much for our Strength or pursue the last Proposal as the only method that presents itself with a Probability of lessening it. These Negotiations need not interrupt the necessary Preparations for war, the Enemy lay their whole Stress on Trichenopoly, a large Store of Provisions should be thrown in as soon as possible; the Garrison supplyed with what Stores it may want and as ill Management has once very near ruin'd us please to give such Orders as you judge may prevent the like in future.

Ramah Naik when here intimated to me that an Expedient might be found which might probably satisfy all Parties which was that the Poligars of Trichenopoly should pitch upon a Person to govern that Country which he believ'd would be agreeable to the King of Tanjour and the Daloway, though his Proposal does not carry with it any great Probability of Success yet you may hear what he has to say on the Occasion and see if any thing can be drawn from it.

I have wrote you my Sentiments on the present State of Affairs and shall be oblig'd to you for yours.

I shall discourse with the Vakeel and inform you of the Result

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

THOMAS SAUNDERS

Fort S^{t} George
5th Novem: 1753.

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq̃. read as follows

To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &C. COUNCIL
OF FORT S^{T}. GEORGE.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Fort S^{t}. David 27th October 1753.

My last to you bore date the 20th, since when have receiv'd your extraordinary Letter of the 18th. Dirty Expressions are what I shall not answer further than to refer them to the Sentiments of my Honble Masters who will be good Judges how much they become their publick Records and before whom I shall be able to turn back to my Letters as well as yours with the greatest Satisfaction submitting it to them to say who has been the Trifiers. Your speedy Declaration of Disapproval of my Conduct I can construe no better than that it is a Determination you have made to condemn it Good or Bad before I set out, to let me know how much my Merits will be recommended by you when I come back; this you will give me Leave to assure you does not at all disappoint me, nor shall it in the least affect my Diligence in the Service on which I am going. In my last I acquainted you that I should set out in three or four days, I was in readiness for it accordingly but the Weather setting in very violently has detain'd me 'till now, as no Boats could get over the Surf. I am this Instant stepping into the Boat for Negapatam where I hope to meet with the King of Tanjour's Escort. I shall follow the Letter of your Instructions and acquaint you of all Occurrences and remain in due form

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Serv̄.

THOMAS COOKE.

Fort S^{t}. David
27 October 1753.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*———

The foregoing Letter being very unbecoming and what ought not to be pass'd over in Silence as it is of the Essence of Government that a due Subordination should be observ'd and a proper Respect shewn from the inferiour to the Superiour Ordered that the said Letter do lye on the Table to be further consider'd at Mr Cooke's return from Camp.

The President lays before the Board the Camp and Military Correspondence.

Captain Grenville at Changleput requesting Leave to come in to settle his Affairs, the Board comply therewith.

Abdul Bob Cawn writes that on Information of a large Quantity of Jewels & Treasure being in a House in Arcot he ordered a Guard to be set over it and the Doors to be seal'd up but that Captain Pigou had taken off his Centries, broke the Seals, & possess'd himself of all the Effects and on his representing the Impropriety of such an Action he return'd him a very harsh Answer. He also says that he intends shortly to take the Field to settle the Country and collect the Revenues towards discharging the Company's Debt and desires that the Detachment at Tripoty may be order'd to join him for that Purpose.

In regard to the Complaint against Capt. Pigou, the President is desired to reprimand him severely for interfering in the least in matters of this Nature and insist on his giving Abdul Bob Cawn immediate and ample Satisfaction and never presume in future to concern himself about the Effects or Treasures belonging to the Nabob or Circar but attend solely to the Trust committed to him which is the Protection and Defence of the Fort.

As to the other Part of Abdul Bob Cawn's Letter it is Agreed that Lieut. Preston with the Detachment under his Command at Tripoty be ordered to march this way and escort Sanawasa Cherry who is order'd to come hither to settle his Accounts with Sumpetrow, and as soon as he has seen him so far as that he may proceed alone in Safety, to return immediately and join Abdul Bob Cawn and assist him in settling the Country between Arcot & Conjeveram but on no account whatsoever to go further than Arcot, that in case his Return hither should be necessary he may be within a few marches.

It having been resolv'd in Consultation the 8th Ulto. to send Rama Naik as Vakeel to the King of Tanjour and a Gratification being usual on these Occasions. Agreed that a Present be made him of Cloth &ca. to the Value of one hundred Pagodas.

Meer Munsoor a Subidar of Seapoys having on many Occasions behav'd with Remarkable Bravery and received many desperate Wounds without having ever had any Particular Reward, tis Agreed as an Encouragement to him as well as others that he be presented with a Gold Chain and Medal with the Company's Arms on one Side and this Legend "The Gift of the Honble United East India Company" and on the Reverse his own Effigies with a Drawn Sword in his hand.

The Mysore Vakeel having been long detain'd here & complaining that his Distress for Money is so great as to oblige him to pawn his Jewels; Agreed that five Hundred or a thousand Pagodas be lent him on his Draught on the Daloway.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHAS. BOURCHIER

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

General Letter to Major Lawrence with a Commission to appoint Courts Martial sign'd & sent. The Letter is as follows 7th

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^R.
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALL THE COMPANY'S
FORCES IN INDIA.

Sir

We wrote to you the 5th Instant in answer to your Letter of the 21st Ultimo, and promis'd in a few days to send you a List of Officers and a Commission to hold Courts Martial; they both come inclos'd.

We hear from Fort St. David that Mr Repington lately died there by which the Troop of Horse becomes vacant as you are best able to judge of the properest Person to succeed him we desire you will recommend whom you think fit.

Besides the Ensigns whom you lately nominated there are vacancies for two more on the Coast Establishment which may be fill'd up with Voluntiers John Wood (if he is with you and deserves it) and James Ogilvy who has behav'd very gallantly at Tripoty.

A Lieut^t. of the Bengal Detachment of Artillery and an Ensign of Infantry on that Establishment are also wanting, if you have any Persons at Camp deserving of those Promotions we will grant Brevets.

The Commission for holding Courts Martial you will observe is in some respects different from that which you had in Mr. Floyer's time particularly as to the appointing a President instead of "being the President" and the time and Place when and where you are empower'd to assemble these Courts Martial. We do not conceive that our Power extends any further for with respect to the first the Act for punishing Mutiny & Desertion &c expressly says "that the President of such General Court 'Martial shall neither be the Commander in Chief or Governour of the Garrison 'where the Offender shall be try'd nor under the Degree of a Field Officer unless 'where a Field Officer cannot be had in which case the Officer next in Seniority to "the Commander not being under the Degree of a Captain shall preside at such "Court Martial, and in regard to Time and Place though we think there is no doubt "but that the obvious Sense of the Words in the Charter "Open Hostility" will authorize you to hold Courts Martial in the Field where you are, yet we are of Opinion they cannot extend at present to the Company's Garrisons or Districts where Peace reigns.

We send you likewise a Commission for a Judge Advocate which we apprehend would be proper in case you should be under a Necessity of bringing any Delinquent to Trial, and the more so as we desire & strongly recommend that the Proceedings may be conducted with the greatest Regularity and authenticated Copies of them sent home to our Honble Masters for their Information.

The Restrictions under which the Parliament annually vests the Crown with Military Jurisdiction and the Caution us'd in delegating this to the Subject will we are perswaded be sufficient Reasons for you not to use the Power given you except in case of absolute Necessity.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants

Fort St George
7th November 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

Monday the 12th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R^ Gov^R.^ PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Three General Letters from Major Lawrence read as follows

Honble Sir & Sirs (N° 7)

Enclos'd is a General Muster of the Troops under my Command taken by M^r^ Maunsell. I am sorry to acquaint you of the Death of two of our Officers, Lieut^s^ Repington & Sommers and of M^r^ Morrice being dangerously ill, besides Capt^n^ Kilpatrick, Gauppe, Howes, and two other Officers in Trichenopoly incapable of Duty, the two former and two latter of Wounds who cannot for a long time, if ever, be fit for Duty. These Losses make us in great want of Officers and I know not how we shall be able to take the Field in a proper time without more.

The Enemy have been join'd since my last by 100 Europeans with three Guns; they now outnumber us greatly. I should be glad to know what you intend doing, whether for prolonging the war or making a Peace; the latter I hear nothing of and M^r^ Cooke is not yet arriv'd. If the former you must certainly think that a Reinforcement is necessary and I beg no Delays be us'd if you come to this Determination of sending one. We have constantly been inferiour to the Enemy although we have kept up our Heads so long & have endanger'd all at several Times, merely through not collecting our Force in a Body, if any Accident should happen which God forbid by being in this Situation it must certainly be attended with the Ruin of us all. Let me therefore beg for once more you'll not delay making us strong enough to oppose the Common Enemy at any time.

I just hear the King of Mysore has sent Proposals of a Peace to the King of Tanjour which includes Morarow in the Treaty. When I hear the Particulars I will then inform you of them.

Monogee has long expected a Letter from the President, as it certainly is but a Piece of Civility we should shew, but has not receiv'd one.

We have receiv'd by your Orders from M^r^ Starke Pag^s^ 3000 by Hircars I must request you'll desire him to continue to supply us but with more at a Time as the Roads are quite clear and we may not have them so by & by.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs Your most humble and most Obedient Servant

Coiladdy
Oct. 28 : 1753.

S. LAWRENCE

Ensign Clerk going to wash in a River this Evening is unfortunately drown'd

The Honble Thom^s^ Saunders Esq. President & Governour &c. Council of Fort S^t^ George.

Honble Sir & Sirs (N° 8)

I have receiv'd yours of the 18^th^ Instant. I am surpriz'd that our Accounts of the Number of the Enemy differ so widely; but you will give me leave to judge, if not from the Report of my Spies, at least by my Eye, as I have had some Opportunities to see them. If you get your Intelligence from where you did formerly you will please to remember when I first came up to Trichenopoly you assur'd me the Enemy were not above five hundred strong; and I made it plainly appear to you they were eleven hundred. so it is possible you may be deceiv'd now. I can venture to assure you they outnumber us greatly.

——FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.——

I am very well pleas'd with the Account of the Detachment sent to Devecotah; As it will keep that Place out of Danger of Insult and also be at hand, if wanted, to be sent for here. I have receiv'd no account of their Number.

As Captain Dalton's Resolutions for going are fix'd I waited on the Nabob to desire that he would oversee his Accounts before he went, and if they were approv'd of to sign them, which he has promis'd as also to send a Power to his Duan Sumpetrow to examine the Accounts with you and if right to close them.

The Reason why I insisted on the Necessity of the Money being sent (as the Roads are now clear) was to save an Expence of one and a half ℔ cent to the Company as also that we might be certain of the time we should have it. The Payment of the Bills sent by Buckunjee is frequently delayed, even the last that were due the 21th are not yet paid I am apt to suspect Buckunjee's Delays are occasion'd by the French Faction at Tanjour and our not having some prop[er] Person there to look into our Interests.

I am very much of your Opinion that a Strict Enquiry should be made into Captain Crompton's Accusation of the Lieut$^{t.}$ you have sent him that Justice may be done–Let me also desire that the same Strictness may be followed in examining M$^{r.}$ Dawson's Cause of Complaint against Capt$^{n.}$ Pascal. If Captain Pascal is guilty he certainly does not deserve to serve. But if it be false I leave you to judge whether the same Punishment would not be Justice. There was a small Mistake as to the Nature of the Lieut$^{s.}$ Punishment, it was not the Pillory but a Publick Whipping at the Flagg Staff for robbing one Mr. Burton. I am certain M^{r} Morse had he known any such thing would be far from recommending him.

As the Want of Officers is very obvious I should be glad to have an account of their Rank, that I might be able to appoint the oldest Ensigns to act as Lieut$^{s.}$; I have appointed M$^{r.}$ Martin White Serjeant Major to be Adjutant in the room of M^{r} Sommers deceas'd. One M^{r} Martin LeClerk a new made Officer has drown'd himself. M^{r} John Wood and M^{r} John Voogard are appointed to do the Duty of Ensigns 'till your Pleasure is known. Capt^{n} Charles Campbell and M$^{r.}$ William Rumbold are oblig'd on account of their Health to be sent to Fort S$^{t.}$ David. Captain Ridge must follow.

I beg leave to refer you to a Letter of mine of the 21st Instant that shews you how hearty the Nabob is in his Desire of Peace and that he entirely leaves it to you to make such a one as would be proper both for his and your Interests. And for a Confirmation of it he has wrote to you with full Powers to act for him as you shall judge fit. You are sensible Gentlemen it has ever been my Desire to have one; but such a one as will really secure us against the Designs of M^{r} Dupliex, whose Sincerity you doubt as well as me.

I believe you will be of my Opinion that on Balazarow's Approach it would be proper to send somebody to him as well to prevent that Piece of Civility from the French as to secure him stronger to our Interest.

As soon as Captain Dalton has settled his Accounts I shall appoint a proper Officer to succeed him. The 28th Instant, the Muster Rolls of the Forces under my Command were sent to you. Mr. Benjamin D'Visme has applied & got Leave to go to Fort S$^{t.}$ David on account of his Health.

I am with great Respect

Gent$^{n.}$

Your most Obedient & most humble Servant

STRINGER LAWRENCE

Coyladdy
30th Oct$^{r.}$ 1753.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*———

Honble Sir & Sirs

Inclos'd I send you the Nabob's Letter to Sumpetrow (as he tells me) empowering him to settle & close the Accounts, but as he seems somewhat diffident whether Sumpetrow will chuse the Office, it would be highly proper to find out whether he has given him necessary Instructions for doing it.

I have heard from Tanjour that the King of Mysore has made some Overtures towards a Peace, that his Conditions are as follows. That the Nabob should pay him one hundred & thirty Lacks of Rupees, and give the Country round about Trichenopoly as a Security for the Payment. That you see plainly would be doing nothing. But the King of Tanjour thinks he can make one for sixty Lack of Rupees to be paid the King of Mysore and the Countries of Tinnevelly and Madura to be the Securities for it. This latter one would certainly be advantagious, but I must again repeat it; The want of a Proper Person at Tanjour will be the Cause that Succogee Naik the Prime Minister (who is doing every thing in his Power to oppose us) will prevail and we lose the Opportunity of making so good a Peace.

The Inconveniencies of not sending Money as I desire oblige me again to mention it. Though tomorrow is the first of the Month the Bills are not yet paid, how can we pretend to supply Trichenopoly with Provisions, when even our Soldiers have not received their Pay.

As the Nabob's Vakeel is expected in two or three Days I shall communicate to you such news as he may bring relating to our Affairs.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
STRINGER LAWRENCE

Coyladdy
31st. Octr. 1753.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr.
President and Governour &c Council
at Fort St George.

Agreed that a Return of our Garrison be sent the Major that he may know our whole Strength and judge how imprudent it would be to send any considerable Reinforcement to Camp, especially as Mr Dupliex has lately sent several Boat Loads of Ammunition to Allumparra and Parties of the Enemy are in motion this way which may render it necessary to make Occasional Detachments from hence for the Protection of the Country, and in regard to the Majors Hint that it would be proper the President should write to Monogee, he be acquainted it was through the President's Interest with the King of Tanjore that Monagee was restored, who has not even wrote him a Letter of Compliment upon it nor congratulated him on the last Victory as is usual & which the Nabob, King of Tanjour and all the other Princes & Great Men have doue, yet the President has already wrote to him on it. That we are sorry the Army should suffer any Inconveniencies for want of Money but the Danger of sending it by Hircars is so great that the saving of one and a half ℔ Cent could not have tempted us to run the risk had not the pressing Demands of the Army and Trichenopoly made it necessary. That our Sentiments have all along been and still are for Peace and if the Terms on which the King of Tanjour thinks he can conclude on with the Daloway are to be obtain'd we hope the Nabob will not hesitate but we are apt to think the King of Tanjour's Design is only to amuse as he is averse to the Surrender of Trichenopoly into the Mysore's hands. That we should be glad to be inform'd what Quantity of Provision is in Trichenopoly.

The President lays before the Board the Camp and Country Correspondence.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly writes that he has mounted all the Cannon taken in the last Battle upon the Ramparts and that he does not apprehend the Place in any Danger from the Enemy were they to make an Attempt. That he has ordered

——— *FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.* ———

ten measures of Rice to be sold to the Europeans and eight to the Seapoys for a Rupee by which the Company will be considerable Gainers and repeats his Request to be reliev'd as he intends to go home in January.

The President is desired to direct Captain Dalton to send us an Account of what Provisions were laid in Trichenopoly, how much has been expended and how long the Remainder will subsist the Garrison and henceforward to send us an Account monthly of all Provisions sold, the amount whereof must be carried to the Company's Credit.

Letter from Captain Lin at Changleput wherein he mentions some Disputes in relation to a Number of Cattle that had been taken from the Enemy. Agreed that he be caution'd not to suffer his People to plunder or insult the Nabob's Friends but that every thing be justly paid for.

Agreed that the Several Officers in the Out Garrisons be directed not to receive any Money hence forward from the Nabob's People on Account of the Troops but that it be remitted here by Bills on the Soucars and we shall supply them.

Amongst the Country Letters is one from Gulam Hussen Cawn son of Imaum Saib representing the strict Alliance that formerly subsisted between his Father and the English, and his strict Attachment ever since to the Nabob's Interest, whose Officer has lately taken Possession of, and turn'd his Naib out of the Jageer formerly granted him and desiring our Interposition with the Nabob Agreed that his Case be represented to the Nabob.

The President acquaints the Board that he had discours'd with Vencatrow the Mysore Vakeel on the Terms of Peace propos'd by the Nabob but he objected to two Articles viz^{t}. The Fort's remaining in our Possession for a year unless the Nabob were sooner settled, and the fifteen Lacks to be paid to the Nabob, but even these Articles he was of Opinion would be comply'd with by the King of Mysore and propos'd that he should be permitted to go to Seringapatam to negotiate it with the King himself which would shorten the Treaty as it must at all Events be ratified by him if it were negotiated with the Daloway.

The Board are of Opinion that if Vencatrow be sincere, his going to Seringapatam might have a good Effect but as he has been detain'd here a considerable time contrary to his Inclination it is not improbable but this may be an Artifice to get away, the President is therefore desired to propose to him to leave his Wife and Family here as a Proof of his good Intentions, untill he returns.

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R} WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{S}. BOURCHIER

General Letter to Major Lawrence agreeable to Resolution of last Consultation 15th sign'd and sent as follows

To STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQ^{R}.
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALL THE COMPANY'S
FORCES IN INDIA

Sir Fort S^{t} George 15th Nov^{r}. 1753.

We have receiv'd your Letters of the 28th 30th & 31st Ult^{o}. we wrote you fully the 5th and again the 7th.

We are sorry to observe the Indisposition of so many Officers, we have sent every one we can spare, in case of Vacancies they must be fill'd up with such as are most capable in Camp for we have none here, comparing the number of your

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1758.*———

Command and our Garrison, our Number in the Hospital exceeds yours, the Coffreys dye two or three daily and those who are not sick are of no Service. Inclos'd is a Return of our Strength by which you will judge how incapable we are of sending you any Reinforcement of Consequence; M^r. Dupliex has sent several Boats of Ammunition and Stores to Allumparra, the Enemy in small Parties are in motion near Sadrass and we expect the Country from Changleput will be harrass'd as last year; M^r. Hunter's Situation demanded a Reinforcement, we have accordingly sent him thirty men.

When Monogee was in disgrace the President us'd his Influence with the King to restore him and wrote him but he did not reply, on the late Victory, the Nabob, King of Tanjour, Kiroody Cawn, and Abdul Bob Cawn wrote Letters of Congratulation but he did not. The President wrote him.

When bad Weather prevented for some days the Dispatch of the Prince George we remitted you Bills for Pag^s. 10,000 that it might be of no Ill Convenience. M^r Starke has again sent you some by way of Devecotah, nothing but the pressing necessity you urge to us can induce us to this way of sending Money by Hircars; We wish in the End it may not be attended with Loss. Vencatrow being in want of Money for Expences we thought it but just to supply him inclos'd is his Bill on the Daloway for Pag^s. 1000.

Please to acquaint us for how many months there is Store in Trichenopoly.

In regard to the Lieut^t. at Vizagapatam we shall only remark that he has been there nine or ten Years Gunners Mate or Gunner; M^r. Morse thoroughly acquainted with the Arbitrary Treatment this Man receiv'd from M^r. Burton speaks well of him and Captain Crompton six months ago on making Enquiry of M^r. Wynch of his Character was inform'd he was unjustly treated; nay more, Captain Grant can tell you that Capt^n. Crompton associated with him freely' till a private Quarrel arose. We enquir'd into M^r Dawson's Conduct concerning the Stores and his Behavior to Officers to the first he replies, that he supply'd them with every thing they ask'd for, to the latter that he knows of nothing but that having but one Single Room he could not conveniently turn out of it. We expect him here soon when we shall enquire into Captain Pascal's Affair.

You need not doubt of our taking the Proper Measures if Balazarow comes this way. he last year made fair Promises and broke them, our Vakeel was with him but what could avail his Rhetorick against twenty five Lack of Rupees, it is reported He & Salabat Jung have accommodated Affairs and that he is going to Sitarra; tis also said that most of the leading Men in Salabat Jung's Camp would gladly be rid of the French, that a Subah was appointed to Golcondah but Mon^s. Bussey objected to him and that he is negotiating with Balazarow, nothing of certainty is to be expected from this Quarter, we shall make the most of any Advantages that offer.

Our former Letters will sufficiently convince you we think a peace absolutely necessary and the best we can get, the Misfortune is that the Enemy are Stronger than we are, and therefore the Terms don't immediately center in us, in yours of the 28^th you desire we would let you know what we intend doing; whether Peace or War and that you hear nothing of the latter; The Nabob's Powers to treat did not arrive with us till the 30^th. which is two days later than the date of your Letter, so that we could say nothing on that head, the Mysore Vakeel has been discours'd with he says he will agree to all the Terms except the fifteen Lack of Rupees to the Nabob and one years time to be allow'd for the Delivery of the Fort, which the Daloway seems jealous of, on these Points he has no Instructions, but believes by Application to the King of Mysore these may be granted. We observe what you say in regard to the Dalloways and that the king of Tanjour says he believes he can finish the Affair for sixty Lack on the Security of Tinnevelly and Madura; These Terms are so very advantagious that we hope the Nabob will not hesitate a moment and desire you will use all possible Means to bring it to a Conclusion.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

The King of Tanjour made Offers last year but it came to nothing; Our Sentiment are that he will if possible prevent the last Article. The Nabob's Affairs are such as will not admit of Delay nor should we be diverted from pursuing the probable Measures.

We are

Sir Your most Obedient Servants.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort S[t] George
15[th]. Nov[r] 1753.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 19th.

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ[R]. GOV[R]. PRESIDENT
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Three General Letters from Major Lawrence read as follows viz[t].

Honble Sir & Sirs (N[o]. 10)

This is to acquaint you with the Death of Lieu[t]. Morrice; I have appointed M[r]. Thomas Rumbold in his room as Quartermaster 'till your Pleasure is known. His Care and Diligence while he acted for M[r]. Morrice during his Illness, and the Character he has maintain'd ever since he has been with us of a good and careful Officer makes me recommend him as I think he is very proper for the Business.

I am sorry to inform you that our best old Soldiers who are entitled to their Discharge from the Service, most of them now insist on it; by which our Good Men of the Infantry and Artillery are leaving us. I make use of all the Perswasion I am Master of (with Justice) to make them stay, but the Example of the Bombay Detachment frightens them.

You are sensible Gentlemen those poor Fellows were sent down to Quarters in order to be shipp'd off for Bombay, But instead of that were again sent out in the field; The Reason given for it was you wanted Men; True we want Soldiers but not such as are forc'd to serve against their Wills; I am desir'd to perswade them to stay; but when a Man insists on his Right and appeals to the Promises that have been made to him of having it, I should be sorry to be Master of the Art that could elude such just demands. They are here without Cloathing, the Serjeant who commands them has money left to him in England which he must lose by his Absence and wants so much to go that he is willing to relinquish his Demands of Pay and Cloathing on Bombay so that he can but get home; I must be oblig'd to give him his Discharge and also send the other Men back to our Settlements to be sent off the first Opportunity; to prevent their Complaints affecting the other men and making them afraid of being us'd in the like Manner.

Hussan Addy Cawn has join'd the Enemy. This is the fourth Reinforcement since our last Engagement and not the least Information have I receiv'd of their marching from any of our Settlements so that they are join'd before I know even of their coming. This last Detachment is pretty considerable. I beg Gentlemen you will not be deceiv'd as to their Numbers, which I can assure you are much superiour to ours.

No Money come up yet nor the Bills paid so that the Men cannot yet receive their Pay for the first part of this month. I have but one acting Captain with me in the Field and the other Officers all young ones lately made- The rest are sick and wounded. Instead of the Refreshment that would be necessary for the Troops at

——FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.——

this inactive Time of the Year, on account of the Weather, They are oblig'd to live in huts, few that hold out the rain and all of them damp: so that I fear when the Season comes on for taking the Field, we shall find ourselves weaker by Deaths & Sickness than when first we went into Cantoonments. Had Money been sent in time sufficient to have secur'd Trichenopoly, we might have march'd into Good Quarters at our Settlements; strengthen'd our men, and made us ready and able to open the Campaign at a proper Season besides sav'd the Expence of Batta to the Company.

There is no news of Mr Cooke nor any body sent to Tanjour, I have done my Duty Gentlemen in acquainting you of the Consequence of not having somebody there to support our Interests; I am asham'd to repeat it; If you think it unnecessary why not tell me of it, But if of use may it not be call'd a great Neglect.

The Surgeons have inform'd me that Capt. Kilpatrick's Wounds will not suffer him to bear the Fatigues of a Compaign but that he may be able to do Garrison Duty. He is at present at Trichenopoly, if you approve of it I shall leave him there; as Captn. Dalton desires to be reliev'd by the 25th of this month, I shall appoint him in the mean time to command, till he or any one else is pitch'd on by you.

When you think proper to fill up the Vacancies of Lieutenancies I must beg you will rectify a Mistake you have made by making Mr William Rumbold Elder than his Brother Mr. Thomas; Though he is the youngest by Birth, yet he is the oldest Officer by being a Voluntier before him.

I acquainted you in my Letter of the 30th. Oct^{r} I had appointed Mr Martin White Serjeant Major, to act as Adjutant in the Room of Mr Sommers till your Pleasure was known, His good Services and Capacity entitle him to that Reward; I hope you will think him worthy of it by approving the choice.

Coyladdy
2d Novem 1753.

I am Gentn.

Your most Obedient
and most humble Servant
STRINGER LAWRENCE

The Honble Thos. Saunders Esqr. President
& Gov. &c^{a} Council of Fort St George.

Honble Sir & Sirs (No. 11)

I had three men deserted last Night and I have three more in confinement for that Crime – I do not chuse to do anything by my own Authority (tho' the Necessity of it will bear me harmless) when I can have a proper Legal Power given me. You see then how necessary it will be to send me up those Powers which your Charter entitles you to give me for holding of General Courts Martial or I must be oblig'd to proceed as I us'd to do and make Examples to prevent the Evil spreading. I cannot nor will not serve on such Terms as confine me in my Operations or leave me expos'd to the Laws of my Country if you have it in your Powers to give me a proper Liberty.

Captain Campbell had my Leave yesterday to go to Fort St. Davids on account of his Health. Our Number of Sick increase daily, occasion'd by the Damps and wet which the houses will not keep out, so that at the Season for opening of the Campaign I am afraid we shall find ourselves weaker than when we first went into Cantonments; however you will not think I hope of sending up the Reinforcement to me 'till I shall judge proper as I have no Place to lodge the men, our Village being scarce large enough to contain our present Numbers.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

I receiv'd the Bills on Buckunjee for five thousand Pagodas but not one farthing of the ten thousand paid yet. I acquainted you once before what I thought was the Reason why the Payments were delay'd, but I am now sure it is the French Faction at the Court of Tanjour that have a fine time of it while there is nobody there to oppose them. I have had Advice however that M^r^ Cooke is at last set out; I hope he may come in time to put a Stop to it.

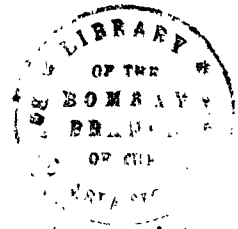
I am Gentlemen Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

S. LAWRENCE.

Coyladdy
5^th^. Novem 1753.

Before I had clos'd this there was an account of part of the ten thousand Pagodas being at last come.

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r^.
Governor & President &c^a^ Council.



Honble Sir & Sirs

I have receiv'd yours of the 25^th^ October. As I had the honour to acquaint you before of the Delays I met with in the Payment of the Bills drawn on Buckunjee, I flatter'd myself my word was sufficient without telling me "These People assure us of their greatest Readiness to negotiate them." For a Proof of this Readiness they are eleven thousand Pagodas in arrears to us though we are in the greatest want of Money and continually pressing them. As M^r^ Cooke is on the Spot he will be able to confirm what I say, which perhaps then may gain belief. As to the Bills for ten thousand more which you inform me are sent I have not yet receiv'd. Risques in war are unavoidable but whether it is better by delays in sending the proper Supplies to venture a Mutiny in the Army, Desertion and the Want of Provisions or run the Chance of losing a small Sum of Money by following the Method propos'd I refer to you.

If in the mean time that your answers to my Letters Gentlemen are referr'd to our Honble Masters, the common Cause should suffer Pray how shall we answer that to our Honble Masters.

Captain Ridge shall acquaint you with the Particulars of the Affair between him and M^r^ Dawson.

I never knew Vacancies were to be kept open for a twelve month when Officers that are sent over here by the Orders of the Company are to succeed to such Vacancies that may happen upon or after their Arrival.

I refer you to my last about the Affair of General Courts Martial; I have now besides the Prisoners mention'd to you in that letter, one more for Murder.

As I find my Health every day impairing and my Sight growing worse, if these Inconveniencies increase I must be oblig'd to come to some of our Settlements to endeavour to recover. I have acquainted you of this in time in case it should happen that you may look out for some proper Person to command in my Absence, Captain Dillens is now the next Officer to me in the field but as he is entirely an Artillery Officer he might be at a Loss to know how to manage a Body of Infantry. Besides he speaks no English and is quite a Stranger to the Affairs of this Country.

Here follows a Copy of the Paragraph in Cap^t^ Crompton's Letter relating to the Lieut^t^ sent him.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

"There is one John Seaton here who was made a Lieut[t] of the Train; that "Man has been whipp'd at the Flag Staff at Fort S[t]. David for stealing three Chests "of Claret from M[r] Augustus Burton; After he was turn'd out of the Bounds he "offer'd his Service to M[r]. Dupliex, from thence he went and serv'd the Moors and "after that to Madras and requested an Ensigns Commission which would have been "granted to him but Cap[t] Hollond and the rest of the Officers declared they would "not roll with him which was the Cause that he miscarried. I thought proper to "acquaint you with it that the Corps should not reflect on me for concealing the "Affair. I advis'd M[r] Pigot of it as soon as it came to my Knowledge; Serjeant "Quigley who belonged at that time to Cap[t] Morgan's Company saw the Sentence "put in Execution; as for my own part I have declared I will not roll with him. I "request your Opinion thereon.

I am Gentlemen
Your most Obedient and
most humble servant
S. LAWRENCE

Coyladdy
8[th]. Nov. 1753

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq[r]
President and Governour &c. Council.

Agreed that in answer to the Major's several Letters he be acquainted that we should gladly supply him with Money more regularly if it were in our Power but we know of no better means at present than by Bills on the Soucars, which it is certain may sometimes occasion Delays as they send the Money by Peons who may be retarded by bad Weather or other Accidents. That we are concern'd to observe the Sickness and Death amongst the Officers as we are at a Loss how to supply their Places and desire the Majors Opinion whether it will interfere with the Officers here if we were to write to Bombay (where we are inform'd there are several Supernumerary) for such as they can spare, and also to Bengal to engage as Voluntiers for the Service on this Coast such young Gentlemen on board the Europe Ships as may be willing to enter on promise of Succeeding as Vacancies happen. That we are from [*sic*] desiring any Compulsion should be us'd with the Men whose Times are expir'd & desire their Dicharge but at the same time should be glad if Perswasion and Encouragement as far as 10 £ a Man could prevail on them to continue however if they insist on being dismiss'd we think it is better to send them in. As to the Bombay Detachment there can be but very few Europeans for most of them return'd with Captain Andrews, the rest are Topasses and we do not see the great Hardship complain'd of since a Soldier who inlists himself is to serve at any of the Comp̃y's Settlements where it may be necessary. That we approve the Appointment of Captain Kilpatrick to command in Trichenopoly as well as the Nomination of Lieu[t]. Rumbold to be Quarter Master of Infantry. That it is true M[r]. Thomas Rumbold did ener himself as a Voluntier before his Brother but as they both began to act together and went to Camp at the same time the elder was preferred which at that time seem'd agreeable to the younger, however as the Major desires it may be otherwise we acquiesce, that we are concern'd to hear of his Indisposition which we hope will not prevent his continuing in the Command.

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq[r]. read as follows.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Tanjour 8[th]. November 1753.

I acquainted you under date the 27[th] Ult[o]. of my Departure from Fort S[t]. David. I arriv'd at Negapatam the 29[th] and at this Place the 5[th]. Instant, but it being in time of a high Festival was oblig'd to wait 'till last night before I could get Admittance to the King, when I acquainted him with every thing contain'd in your

——FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.——

Instructions, omitting only the giving up of Trichenopoly which I shall defer mentioning 'till the last Extremity. He express'd himself very desirous of a Peace and if the Terms were agreeable to the Nabob he had no Objection to them, further than if the Fort of Trichenopoly should be continued the Nabobs Property he thought it would be prudent to reserve some Part of the Districts for the Maintenance of the Garrison that must reside in it; for this he offers Seringam, Madura and Ghambo Casheram as necessary to be consider'd however that he should readily consent to the Nabobs Measures. That he had likewise made some considerable Advance on the Nabob's Account which he relyes on being repaid immediately after he has discharg'd his Debt to the Company. I told him that the several Articles I had communicated were drawn out a long time & that it was probable from the Success the Nabob has since met with Matters might be yet made more favourable which I should be able to advise him of on discoursing with the Nabob. Upon the whole I can only say that he appear'd in general to be very easy and well affected to any Steps that the Nabob might approve; Intimating however that as he has made any Enemies in espousing his Cause he trusts that both He and the English will always regard his Interest; this I undertook to assure him of in the Strongest Terms. I likewise apply'd to him in behalf of the Paddy which he had engag'd to send to Trichenopoly which he tells me he has already fully complied with. This being the material of my discourse with him I took my Leave and propose to proceed to Camp as soon as I receive an Answer from the Major to a Letter I wrote him immediately on my Arrival here to know if he has any thing to offer further for my Execution before my Departure: I should be very glad to observe the greatest Circumspection in all my Interviews with his Majesty but I find his Custom such that there is no Possibility of discoursing him in private; he has always 6 or 7 of his Nobility present and amongst whom is his Prime Minister Secojee who is constant Interpreter to his Majesty. This Person I am inform'd is the only Enemy here to the General Cause, It will not therefore surprize you if upon some Occasion I may find it very difficult to give his Majesty a proper Understanding of Affairs. You inform'd me that you had determin'd to break through the Custom of Presents, large ones I should agree with you ought to be avoided but going entirely empty handed I am inform'd does not at all succeed, and am fully convinc'd it was for no other Reason that I was detain'd here two days before I could get introduc'd and had I not at last purchas'd a Piece of Scarlet and one of Aurora it's likely I might not have seen him yet. This I gave to his Majesty and am still apply'd to by one of his Servants who constantly waits on me upon all Messages from him for 3 Yards but as I know not how such Things will be approv'd after the special Directions you have given me against it I am oblig'd to desist. If this should occasion any Neglects in them in making a proper delivery of my Answers you will take the Consequence upon yourselves 'till you are pleas'd to send me discretional Orders regarding such Trifles.

Since writing the foregoing have receiv'd the Major's Answer. He gives me several General Hints how to act and seems desirous of my continuing here if your Instructions will admit of it, but as I am particularly enjoin'd to discourse with the Nabob and having many Subjects to consult the Major upon I intend to proceed to Camp tomorrow and if after adjusting Matters there, the Major should recommend me to return here I intend to comply accordingly. He has desir'd me to talk to Bucunjee regarding his Delays in Payment of your Bills, I have therefore sent for him and will get him to explain that matter if I can this Evening. He has particularly enjoin'd me to shew all the Courtesy I can to Monagee but as I have nothing to carry in my hand I am inform'd my Visit will be coldly receiv'd Neither can I visit him without giving Offence to some others. I shall however be ready to do all I can to comply with any Directions you may think proper to send me and remain in due form.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obed^{t} Humble Serv^{t}

THOMAS COOKE

To the Honble Th^{s}· Saunders Esq̃.
President and Governour &c^{a}· C^{o}·
of Fort S^{t}· George.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

Agreed that Mr Cooke be permitted to make such Presents as are absolutely necessary for the Dispatch of Affairs but that he be caution'd to be as sparing as possible and to keep his Expences within moderate Bounds.

Major Lawrence in his Letter of the 31st October having intimated that the King of Tanjour thinks he can conclude a Peace with the King of Mysore for sixty Lacks of Rupees Agreed that Mr Cooke be directed to propose to the King of Tanjour that if he can effect it on those Terms, the Nabob will mortgage the whole Trichenopoly Country to him as a Security for the repayment of the money.

The Country Correspondence laid before the Board.

Captain Pigou writes the President that he had given Abdul Bob Cawn full Satisfaction on the Complaint mention'd in consultation the 5th Instant, which he declares was very unjust as he had not possess'd himself of one Article in the House as the Nabob mentions.

Letter from Lieut. Preston at Tripoty giving an account of the Moneys he has receiv'd for payment of the Seapoys, he also mentions that Sanawasa Cherry had apply'd to him for a Company of Seapoys to remain at Tripoty for the protection of that Place and a Letter from Sanawasa Cherry is also read wherein he requests the same and represents that without this Assistance the Place will be entirely ruin'd by the Enemy.

Agreed that if Sanawasa Cherry will undertake to pay the Batta a Company of Seapoys be left at Tripoty as desired and that Orders be sent to Lieut. Preston accordingly.

Letter from Abdul Bob Cawn enclosing a Letter to him from Murtaz ally Cawn proposing certain Terms on which he is willing to submit himself and acknowledge the Nabob, whereon Abdul Bob Cawn desires the President's Advice.

Agreed that it be recommended to Abdul Bob Cawn to accommodate Affairs with Murtaz Ally Cawn on the best Terms he can leaving it to his Judgment whether those propos'd are reasonable or not.

The President also lays before the Board Translation of a Letter from the Nabob to Sumpetrow authorizing and empowering him to examine his Account with the Company and to adjust & sign the same.

Ordered that an attested Copy of the said Original Letter be made by the Translator and preserv'd as a Voucher for the Authenticity of the said Account when pass'd.

The Presidt. acquaints the Board that it had been represented to him that Captn. Lin at Changleput having sent out a Party of men with the Nabob's Amuldar he oblig'd him [to] pay them Batta over and above the Batta allowed them in the Garrison which amounted to near 800 Rups. Agreed that he be reprimanded and directed to return the same to the Amulda[r.]

Draughts of several Letters from the Pres[dt], to the Nabob, King of Tanjour, Sydoo Lascar Cawn the Cuddap[ah] Nabob, &ca. are now read and approv'd.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

21 Receiv'd the following General Letters from Major Lawrence and Thomas Cooke Esqr.

Honble Sir & Sirs (No. 13) Coyladdy 11 Nov 1753.

Mr Cooke arriv'd here yesterday from Tanjour and has this day a Conference with the Nabob, of which I suppose he will have the honour of informing you himself.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

Captain Dalton has settled his Acc^{ts}. which the Nabob has approv'd & Seal'd. Captain Kilpatrick recovers every day and will be very able to take charge of the Garrison by the time he intends leaving it.

As the Troop is vacant by the Death of Lieut^{t}. Repingten I desire you will please to appoint somebody to succeed to the Vacancy.

The want of Money is so great with us that we have been oblig'd to apply twenty-eight thousand Rupees money advanc'd by the King of Tanjour according to his Promise for the Supply of Grain, to our more pressing Occasions, the Subsisting of our Troops. M^{r} Cooke can also confirm this let Buckunjee tell you what he will.

I receiv'd a letter from Cap. Polier who went down ill to Fort S^{t}. David. He complain'd me that he could not get any Cloth out of the Company's Magazine for the cloathing of his People without paying ready money which it was impossible for him to do without receiving his Off Reckonings. I have wrote to him to apply to M^{r} Norris the Paymaster for to pay him what Off Reckonings are his due and then he will very willingly as every other Officer shall pay for the Cloth. I hope you will approve this order to prevent any Inconveniency arising from the Men not being duly cloath'd.

I am Gentlemen Your most Obed^{t} & most humble Servant

S. LAWRENCE

The Honble Th^{s}. Saunders
Presid^{t}. & Gov^{r}. &c. Council.

Honble Sir & Sirs Camp 12th Novem. 1753.

The inclos'd is Duplicate of what I address'd you from Tanjour under date the 8th Instant I arriv'd here on the 10th and had a Conference with the Nabob yesterday in which I communicated to him the whole Substance of my Instructions and let him know from you in the strongest Manner I was capable how absolutely necessary it was for his Interest to seek some Method of Accommodation with the Daloway, he told me it was a thing he was very desirous of and that he had sent you some late Proposals regarding it and acquainted me with the particulars, as likewise of an Intimation given him by the King of Tanjour who tells him that he believes the Daloway may be brought to compromise every thing for 60 Lacks of Rupees, giving him only the Countries of Madera and Tinnevelly in Mortgage till the same be paid; Can this be manag'd the Nabob will be highly satisfyed. There is however a very material Obstacle presents to me. I understand the Daloway has long since declared that he will admit of no Correspondence from the Nabob and that he is determin'd to hang the first Man that shall come with any Letters from him. You have given me a Letter to him but neither the Nabob or Major Lawrence thinks it will be prudent to venture any of our own People with it. I have therefore no other method of conveying it but by the means of the King of Tanjour to whom I have apply'd as ℔ copy of my Letter annex'd. If he undertakes it I shall acquaint you but 'till I receive his Answer can do nothing further and can only say if thus difficult to make a Beginning how much more will it be to effect a Conclusion. I submit this to your consideration and am in due form

Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obed^{t}. Hble. Ser[vant]

THOMAS COOKE.

To the Honble Th^{s}. Saunders Esq^{r}.
President & Gov. &c^{a} Council of Fort S^{t}. George.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

From Thomas Cooke Esq^{r} to the King of Tanjour, dated 12 Nov^{r}. 1753

When I had the honour of talking with you I told you all my Business. I have this day convers'd with the Nabob and have good hopes that by your help a Peace may be concluded on much easier Terms than those I mention'd to you, but there is a great Difficulty how to confer with the Daloway; I cannot yet visit him nor will he as I am inform'd receive any Letters from us. I have one directed to him from the Governour of Madras of which a Copy of the Contents wait on you inclos'd, I want likewise to send him a Letter from myself to let him know the Business I am come upon and that with his Permission I will try all in my Power to negotiate a Peace on any reasonable Terms. A Copy of this Letter I will also let you see and desire of you to let me know if you can undertake to convey them to him; It must be done as privately as possible that the French may not get any Knowledge of it, for if they do the Scheme will be utterly spoil'd. The Nabob tells me that it is your Opinion the Daloway may be made satisfy'd by giving him a certain Sum and to mortgage to him the Countries of Madera and Tinnevelly till the same be paid. The Nabob will be very glad to consent to this, if therefore you think you can manage it in that Manner be pleas'd to try your Influence with the Daloway and inform me of the Success; I have a great desire to finish this Business as much as possible to the Content of all Parties and as I am well convinc'd of your friendship have taken the Liberty to request your help in it; Wishing always for your Health and Happiness.

22d Signd and Sent the following General Letters to Major Lawrence and Thomas Cooke, Esq^{r}.

To Stringer Lawrence, Esq^{R}.

Sir

We wrote you the 15th since which we have receiv'd yours of the 2^{d}. 5th. 8th. & 11th.

Your Appointment of M^{r}. Thomas Rumbold meets with our Approbation, he and his elder brother both went Voluntiers to Camp at the same time, the Commission of the elder is of a prior Date as it appear'd to us the younger was far from disapproving it, however it shall be rectified.

We are sorry some of the best men of the Infantry and Artillery desire their Discharge and with Perswasions and Encouragement would engage them to relist, Compulsion is not to be us'd. Please to enquire whether they have been prefer'd impartially by their Officers. There are very few Europeans belonging to the Bombay Detachment, the Rest are Topasses. When a Soldier enters 'tis to serve in any of the Company's Settlements where they are requir'd and therefore it can be deem'd no hardship. As to the Topasses please to send them in that they may be ready to go by such Opportunities as may offer. If the Officers will make Stoppages and draw for their Cloathing in a regular Manner, we cannot see that they should want cloathing but cannot subvert all Rule in our Books and Accounts; this is the Case in regard to Cap^{t}. Polier's Complaint; Our Warehousekeeper delivers in his Accounts monthly and must not give Goods on Trust; the Military Paymaster will certainly account for the Off Reckonings with him according to the Regulations we shall enquire into this Affair.

The only Reinforcement that we have heard of being sent to Trichenopoly was about 100 Men, Supplies of Provision and Ammunition have been sent and Hussan Addee Cawn is by Advices receiv'd now in Pondicherry.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

In regard to supplying you with Money we make use of all means in our Power by Bills and Remittances in Specie, you possibly may not be acquainted with the Nature of Remittances by Bills; in the first Place it is with Difficulty that we can procure these Bills; in the next, the Manner the Soucars remit is liable to Delays they have not money at Trichenopoly, but are oblig'd after receiving the money here to send it by Peons, the same People who serve us having their houses at Pondicherry also and consequently are provided with Dusticks from both Parties; you are sensible of the Badness of the Weather for this month past which is in some measure the Occasion of it. The French Troops at Golcondah have receiv'd no pay these five Months and such is the Difficulty Mons. Moracin meets with to remit it, that he has been oblig'd to have Recourse to Arbitrary and compulsive Methods by imprisoning the Soucars; please to let your Commissary send an Account of what you want monthly.

M[r] Cooke was ordered to proceed to Tanjour the 12[th] September and Ramah Naick has proceeded to reside at Tanjour or be in Camp as Occasion shall require.

We have wrote you fully concerning Officers and Vacancies

We can say no more in regard to the Lieu[t] at Vizagapatam than that upon Enquiry of Persons of Credit we don't find he has been culpable, that Captain Crompton knew this and that his Information seems to be a Pique, Captain Grant resided a considerable Time at Vizagapatam and can probably acquaint you with the whole Affair.

We are sorry to observe the great want of Officers, it is said there are a great many Supernumerary at Bombay; if you think it will not affect those on this Coast we will write for them and as there may probably be several young Gentlemen on board the Europe Ships at Bengal that would be glad to enter as Voluntiers we shall signify to the Gentlemen there that may be receiv'd as such.

It gives us great Concern to hear of your ill State of Health and to observe at the same time with you that there is no one fit for the Command, how fatal might the Consequences be if we were reduc'd to that Situation therefore hope as the fine Weather is now set in you will preserve your Health.

You will please to appoint to the Troop of Horse such Officer as is most capable of it.

We refer you to our Letter to M[r] Cooke for what regards a Treaty.

We are Sir

Your most Obedient Servant[s]

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort S[t] George
22[d]. Novem. 1753.

To THOMAS COOKE Esq[R].

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letters of the 8[th] & 12[th]. Instant with Copy of what wrote to the King of Tanjour.

That he should not be ready to concur with what regards Trichenopoly is no more than we expected, The Major wrote us, as we observe the Nabob has told you, that the King of Tanjour said he believ'd he could accommodate Affairs for 60 Lack of Rupees on the Security of Madera and Tinnevelly, the Terms are so advantagious that they don't admit of any the least hesitation but should be accepted. There is too

much reason to believe this is intended to amuse us; how often have these terms been offer'd and always rejected; the Truth is he cannot relish the other Measures; as he has enter'd into an Alliance and join'd the Nabob and us, we must be careful to preserve his Friendship and if he thinks he can accommodate Matters so easily offer to mortgage the whole Country to him if he will be Security and settle Matters with the Daloway and be responsible for our Debt; if he is sincere surely these Terms will be acceptable. Vencatrow telling the President the Daloway objects to accommodating Affairs by receiving a Part of the Country as Security for the Payment of the Money, we think of sending a Person to talk with the King of Mysore himself as the most ready way to reconcile the Demands the Nabob makes.

We have sent Ramah Naick to Tanjour who may be serviceable to you as an Interpreter and the President in his Letter to the King has desir'd him to be more expeditious in transacting his Affairs.

We did not suppose you could be necessitated for a few yards of Broad Cloth, as it was said you carried a Quantity with you, what is necessary cannot be avoided. Let your Expenses be as moderate as possible.

Monagee is reported to us as in the Nabob's Interest, Succojee Naik the contrary; the former you will cultivate a good understanding with and keep fair with the latter.

Inclos'd is a Letter to the King of Tanjour and one to the Nabob. We are

Sir

Fort S^{t} George
22$^{d.}$ Novem. 1753.

Your most Obedient Servants
THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Monday the 26th.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ$^{R.}$ GOV$^{R.}$ PRESID$^{T.}$
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

General Letter from Cap$^{t.}$ John Caillaud by order of Major Lawrence read as follows.

Honble Sir & Sirs

The Major last night was attack'd with a severe Fit which alarm'd us greatly. He continues very weak after it and complains of a violent Pain in his Stomach– As soon as he finds himself better he intends answering your Favour of the 5th Instant and has also desir'd me to have the honour of acquainting you that he intends setting out for Fort S$^{t.}$ David to try what a Change of Air may do for him.

I am with great Respect

Gentlemen
Your most Obedient and
most humble servant
JOHN CAILLAUD

Coyladdy
15th Novem 1753

THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ$^{R.}$
GOV. & PRESID$^{T.}$ &$^{CA.}$ COUNCIL OF FORT S$^{T.}$ GEORGE

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, NOVEMBER 1753.*——

As it is to be fear'd the Major's Indisposition may oblige him to leave the Army and come in for the Recovery of his Health in which case it is absolutely necessary some capable Officer should be appointed to take the Command, and the Major in his Letter of the 8th Instant (wherein he recommends such a Provisional Appointment) offering his Sentiments that Captain Dillens, the oldest Officer in Camp is not equal to that Charge, being an entire Stranger in the Country, unacquainted with the English Language and an Artillery Officer, Agreed that if the Major should be oblig'd to come into Fort St. David, Mr Starke be directed to consult with him and if there be no Objection to Captain Donald Campbell (the oldest Captain on the List, Capt. Dalton having declared his Intention of resigning) who has generally had the Character of a brave officer, that he be ordered to proceed to Camp and take upon him the Command of the Army untill the Major may be in a Condition to resume it.

The President lays before the Board the French Country &ca Correspondence viz.

A Letter from the Marquis Dupliex dated 18th November (N° 15) in answer to the Presidents dated 2d Nov (N° 14) whereon the Board are of Opinion that as the acknowledging of Mahomed Ally Cawn for Subah of the Carnateck is the only Basis on which a Treaty with Mr Dupliex can be commenc'd, it is needless at present to appoint Commissaries since his Sentiments appear very plain against this Point throughout his Letter and particularly in this Passage "It is therefore in vain "to imagine that his (Mahomed Ally's) Presence in these Parts would establish "Tranquillity; I say no &c. I will therefore always maintain that to support this Man "in these Parts is to feed a Flame that will never cease as long as he is there." It is therefore Resolved that in the Answer Mr. Dupliex be asked whether he will come to an Accommodation with the Nabob or not, and that he be told if he will not, the Nabob is determin'd to defend his Subahship; if he will we conceive the other Difficulties he starts may be easily settled. And Draught of a Letter from the President to Mr. Dupliex is now read and approv'd as entered in the French Correspondence N° 16.

A Letter from Sydoo Lascar Cawn acknowledges the Receipt of the Presidents but is worded in as cautious a manner as his former, he expresses a Satisfaction at the Attachment of the English to Salabat Jung's Interest, desires the Continuance of it and says that Prince is determin'd to settle the Country but is silent as to the Manner in which he intends to do it nor does he mention one word of Nabob Anaverdy Cawn, though a Letter from the Nabob's Vakeel in Salabat Jung's Camp which accompanied the foregoing says that he was ordered by Sydoo Lascar Cawn to advise us to continue firm to the Nabob and that a Saned would be sent him in a short time.

The President acquaints the Board that agreeable to Resolution of Consultation the 12th Instant he had acquainted Vencatrow that as he was of Opinion the King of Mysore might be brought to consent to the Terms propos'd by the Nabob, he (the President) was desirous he should proceed to Seringapatam upon this Business and propos'd to him to leave his Wife and Family here as a Mark of his Good Intentions, but that he absolutely rejected it and declared he had rather dye than submit to an Action that (according to the Custom of his People) would reflect Shame and Dishonour on him offering at the same time to take the most solemn Oath to return whether he succeeded or not, and observed (very justly) that the leaving his Family here might even be of Disservice to the Negotiation he went on as it might give the King a Nation that they were detain'd as Prisoners here and that his Proposals were intended only as a means to procure their Enlargement. Agreed therefore that he be permitted to go with his Family and that Paupa Braminy, a capable Person formerly employed in the Company's service (if he will under[take] the Commission) be sent With him to negotiate this Importan[t] Affair.

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes that the Amuldar of Conjeveram having lately attack'd a Party of the Enemy near Outremaloor, drove them from thence kill'd a Serjeant and took five Prisoners, who with four others there the Nabob desires may be sent to Changleput.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*———

Agreed that Captain Pigou be ordered to acquaint Abdul Bob Cawn to send them thither by the first safe Opportunity.

Sanawasa Cherry the Renter of Tripoty being come in to settle his Accounts with Sumpetrow. Ordered that a Demand be made on him for the whole Amount of the last and the present Years Rents and that he be press'd to pay the same notwithstanding any Pretences he may make of Losses or otherwise as it is apprehended he has received much more than he acknowledges.

M[r] John Clarke desiring to enter as a Voluntier in the Service, Agreed that he be admitted and proceed to Camp by the first Conveyance.

THO[S]. SAUNDERS
CHA[S]. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
A[R]. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH[S]. BOURCHIER

Tuesday the 4th

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ[R]. GOV[R]. PRESID[T]
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH

Charles Bourchier absent, indispos'd.

Two General Letters and one to the Pres[i]dent from Major Lawrence read as follows.

Honble Sir & Sirs (N° 14)

I receiv'd your favours of the 5[th] & 7[th] Inst[t]. My Fit and the Consequences of it prevented my writing before.

The Muster Rolls are such as the Commissary makes out (I suppose by your Orders) and are regularly sent. I am very glad you have prevail'd on M[r] Palk to come out as he can be of great Service. We have rec'd a Supply of Cash from the Prince George and have inform'd M[r] Starke what more will be necessary.

Ramah Naick will certainly be of great Use and shall be employed as Occasion requires. Capt[n] Sanderson and Grant arriv'd here yesterday.

The Charter for Courts Martial is very sufficient; The Difference between it and the one given in M[r] Floyers Time is proper. I know very well Gent[n] the Consequence of making a bad Use of any Power delegated to me and how jealous the Parliament is of the Priviledges it is oblig'd to invest the Crown with in order to support an Army; but am sorry you are oblig'd to recommend Mercy to me in two Letters and these Paragraphs mention'd as if I was capable of abusing my Power or had shown a Temper or Inclination void of Humanity. But you may rest satisfyed that nothing but the Good of the Service shall ever make me put my Power in force, nor will I by an ill tim'd Lenity not punish when it is necessary. I beg Leave to add I believe I have been long enough in the Service to be a Judge of both. I have forgiven the three Deserters mention'd to you.

I am oblig'd to you for the List of Officers but find Captains Grant and Grenville younger than the Captains come out this Season. Indeed I cannot but look on it as an Injustice done them, Gentlemen, and I think we should avoid disgusting Officers who have serv'd us for some time well and faithfully. They were appointed in the Month of December last. Sure when approv'd of they should have receiv'd Commissions at that time, or they were not worthy of being recommended for that Rank. You yourselves Gentlemen sent me the List where Mess[rs]. Grant & Grenville were nam'd Captains in consequence of which they were put in Orders and expected Commissions.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*———

I acquainted you I have appointed Mr Wood, as to Mr. Ogilvy I can have no Objections since you approve of him. On the Spot I name Officers for I must have them, then leave it to your Option to approve of them. The Vacancy of the Troop I have desir'd you will fill up As to the Bengal Promotions I write to the Governour of that Settlement recommending, and then waiting for his Approbation.

I have receiv'd no Reinforcement since our last Affair of the 21st. that has weaken'd us besides some men demanding their Discharges as their time was out; which I could not refuse and the Bombay Detachmen[t] that I have before told you I must send home.

I have receiv'd one hundred Stand of Arms, seventy of which are sent to Trichenopoly & Thirty kept here; as also six Fusees, six Cases of Pistols and four Spying Glasses.

The Death of poor Capt. Ridge prevents his being able to make good his Assertion against Mr. Dawson to whom I had transmitted the Copy of his Letter to you and desir'd him to answer it but if you chuse to have the Affair examin'd into, the Officers on the Spot perhaps can inform us. Pray is Captain Pascal's Affair to be enquir'd about.

I have receiv'd your Order about Court's Martial and the Commission for Mr. Devisme to act as Judge Advocate. I acquainted you before he had my Leave to go to Fort St. David for the recovery of his Health. On his Return he shall be appointed to act in Consequence.

I receiv'd a Letter some time ago from the French Officers Prisoners at Trichenopoly in which four of them offer'd to lay down their Commissions and return to Europe never more to serve in India. I communicated the Proposal to the Nabob who wrote them word that if Mr. Dupliex would release the Killedar of Chellumbrum and his Headmen, he would give them four Leave to go to Pondicherry as Prisoners on their Parole and that there if they chose to lay down, and return to Europe he had no Objections to it.

Inclos'd is my Order to Captain Kilpatrick for the Command of Trichenopoly 'till your Pleasure is known.

I find myself better & while I can I will keep the Field but Accidents may happen and I still fear this fit returning; I beg you will think of somebody in time to take the Command in case I should be oblig'd to go away.

I am Gentlemen

Your most Obedient
& most humble Servant
STRINGER LAWRENCE

Coyladdy
19 Novr. 1753.

Sir

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 5th. Instant. The Reasons that I gave why I could not negotiate were strong enough to convince you that I would willingly have undertaken it had I thought myself equal to the Task; But Military Operations require my Attention and I was afraid to involve myself in more Business than I was capable of though there is no Trouble I should think too much to bring about a Peace.

As to the Queries you propose I beg to refer you to my Letters, are they not all such as I have before pointed out to you and given you my sentiments on.

You mention Mr. Dupliex wants a Conference but you do not think proper to grant him one; for fear you say of alarming our Allies; it may easily I think be prevented by acting openly; and letting them know he desires one and you intend

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*———

to give it & pray let me beg a Question; Will there not be an equal Jealousy on their Side, they are apt enough to be inclin'd to it already. One Conference will I think be more effectual than a Month's Intercourse of Letters. As to Mr. Dupliex's Insincerity we can be on our Guard against it and only accept of those Proposals we think agreeable and conducive to the Interest of our Honble Masters.

"The Dalloway you say maintains their Troops and if the Seat of War was "remov'd that Charge would be added to them and Increase their Expence. The means to have remov'd the Seat of War was to have supplied Trichenopoly with Provisions sufficient to have secur'd it. By that means I should have been able to have march'd where you thought proper and oblig'd the Enemy to follow us for to prevent our Designs. How that has been prevented you very well know. When Provisions were to be got we had but Money sufficient to pay the Troops. When the Money came the Provisions were gone. The King of Tanjour's Ministers (that I gave so much Caution about) contriv'd that we should not have both together. Though had we had the Money there was some Opportunities offer'd that all his Cunning could not have prevented us supplying the Place.

In short Sir you know the Situation of the Compy's Affairs better than I do; you know what they can bear more and you yourself can better answer the Questions you make me than I can who can only pretend to judge of Things in general. Particulars I am kept from. One thing I tell you, if the last Proposal is Agreed to I think the Company ruin'd; Perhaps you may say if there is not a Peace it is also; agree heartily then to get one. Give Mr Dupliex a Conference, act openly, do not divide so much your Forces, nor entertain that Notion that a Number of Garrisons makes you the stronger. These I think are the only Methods I can propose to enable you to make a good Peace or if Necessity obliges, to maintain the War; and is sincerely the Opinion of

Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant

S. Lawrence

P.S.

Ramah Naiks Proposal of Polygars for the Government of the Country I think a very good one Shall wait his Arrival to hear more of it.

Coyladdy 19th Novem 1753.

The Hon'ble Thomas Saunders Esqr

Honble Sir & Sirs. (No. 15)

As there is a Company vacant by the Death of Captain Ridge I beg leave to recommend Captain Lieut. Chas. Campbell to succeed. That Gentleman has been four years out in the field (except this last Monsoon oblig'd to go to Fort St. David for his health) his Services, Behaviour and Capacity deservedly entitle him to Promotion and I hope you will think him worthy of it. Mr. Thomas Rumbold is the oldest Ensign, I have told you in a Letter before what I thought of him as an Officer, and that I had appointed him to act as Quarter Master 'till your Pleasure was known, he is next for the Lieutenancy.

I must own I was a good deal surpriz'd yesterday to receive three Letters; one for the Nabob, his Brother and the King of Tanjour, all seal'd and no Copy of the Contents; Though I declin'd negotiating as it was too much for me with my other Business; yet I think I ought to be made acquainted with our publick Transaction[s] at least not to clash with your Intentions, for as I am on the Spot I am liable to be consulted by all these People who will think it but odd if I am ignorant of what Terms or Proposals are made by you.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

The Nabob shew'd me his Letter; he is Press'd in it to send his proposals; though by the Letter from M^{r} Saunders to me, dated the day before his and acknowledging the receipt of mine (in which the Nabobs was inclos'd) I conceiv'd the Letter had been received in which he sent his Proposals. Besides M^{r} Saunders says He thinks with me the last Proposal should only be complied with at the last Extremity. If receiv'd it would have been proper to have taken Notice of it to the Nabob who perhaps may have imagin'd I had neglected sending it.

As the Time draws near to open the Campaign, I beg your answer if I am to receive any Reinforcement that I may be able to form my Plan accordingly; I have let you know how I am weaken'd by the last Affair and men asking their Discharges. And as most probably our March towards Trichenopoly may draw on another Engagement it would be necessary to be as strong as we can to be able to make some head against an Enemy Superiour to us.

I cannot trust my health to take the field for I recover but slowly from the last Attack; one day well, the next very weak and out of Order. I beg you will think of Somebody ready to take the Command if I am oblig'd to leave the Army. I do not use these Repetitions Gentlemen to alarm you but only to caution you to prevent what may very likely happen.

I am

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient & most humble Servant

S. Lawrence.

Coyladdy
21 Nov^{r}. 1753.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}
Pres^{dt} & Gov^{r} &c Council

The sentiments of the Board in regard to the Major's Letters are that he seems determin'd to complain of every thing, several Instances of this kind are observable in the Letters now read, the first is in Relation to Courts Martial when the Recommendation of Caution and Lenity is construed as a Reflection though it cannot be suppos'd but that the Major is too well vers'd in the Laws and Customs of his Country not to know that such a Charge is always given in Cases where the Life of a Subject is to be brought in Question but in the present Case it became more especially necessary as it is enjoin'd us by our Honble Masters and the Power given by the Charter is worded with the greatest Caution. Other Instances may be found in the following Passages. "You mention M^{r} Dupliex wants a Conference but you do not "think proper to grant him one &c. Agree heartily then to get one (a Peace) give "M^{r}. Dupliex a Conference, act openly, court your Allies, do not divide so much "your forces nor entertain that Notion that a Number of Garrisons makes you the "stronger &c." How just the Major's Observation is in regard to the Conference will best appear by a Quotation from the President's Letter to him dated 5th Nov^{r}. Viz^{t}. "M^{r} Dupliex tells us he is ready to treat and desires a Conference, we ask his "Proposals first in writing, and if they can be reconcil'd with ours (viz. that the "Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn enjoy the Subahship of the Carnateck and the King "of Tanjour enjoy his Country without Molestation) we would agree to a Conference, "'till then decline it, as we suspect it might be design'd to create a Jealousy in our "Allies, & doubt his Intentions being sincere". That this Measure was right appears by M^{r}. Dupliex's last Letter on which Observations are made in last Consultation, it is difficult to judge what the Remainder of the Quotation from the Major's Letter refers to for on revising the Correspondence with our Allies it will appear our Conduct to them is open and undisguis'd, no means were left untry'd to bring the King of Tanjour into our Interest nor has any thing in our Power been omitted that could keep him so. It has been a constant Maxim to keep our Forces together nor are

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

they now divided (as is hinted) more than absolute Necessity requires, Detachments have indeed been occasionally sent out from this Garrison to protect the Arcot Country from the Incursions of the Enemy or to favour the Nabob in collecting the Revenues which has been attended with Success but they have always had Orders to advance no further than would admit of a Speedy Return in case of an Emergency. The only Places where we now have Garrisons are Arcot, Changleput and Trichenopoly, a few inconsiderable Detachments indeed are at Timmery, Covrepauk, and Muslepauk but they are part of the Garrison of Arcot and Capt. Pigou has been ordered to withdra[w] them upon the least Apprehensions of any Design against Arcot * and so far are we from encouraging a Number of Garrisons that our Aversion to it is remarkable (amongst many other Instances) in the Demolition of Saudet Bander which had it been prudent to spare the Force would have been very useful; and the refusing Abdul Bob Cawn a Garrison for Wondivash on the Killedar's offering to submit on those condition[s †].

* *Vide* Consultn. 25th June.

† *Vide* Consultn. 4th June.

As the Major still seems apprehensive that his Health will not permit him to take the field and again recommends to us the Necessity of thinking in time of somebody to take the Command should he be oblig'd to quit it. Agreed that the Major be acquainted that though we are well satisfyed with the Behaviour of the Officers yet we look on the Command of the Army as a Matter of such Consequence that we should be under some Apprehensions were it to devolve on a young officer, we therefore think it would be best to send for Colonel Scott but as he has a Superiour Rank to the Major in his Majesty's Service, we should be glad he would inform us lest any Difficulties should arise how they are to act so as not to clash with each other.

Ordered that Copies of all Letters to the Nabob & King of Tanjour be in future sent to the Major.

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq. read as follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r^
President and Governour &c^a^ Council
of Fort S^t^ George

Hoñble Sir & Sirs — Camp 19th. November 1753.

The foregoing is a Duplicate of what wrote you under date the 12th Instant, the King of Tanjour has rejected to forward any Letters to the Daloway for Reasons that you will observe in the Copy of his Letter annex'd. I have therefore made a further Remonstrance to the Nabob of the absolute Necessity there is of sending them by his own People which with some Difficulty he has undertaken to do the Copies of what he and I have wrote to the Daloway are both inserted for your Perusal; I shall acquaint you with the Success of them by the earliest Opportunity and remain in due form

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient
humble Servant
Thomas Cooke

P.S.

Since writing the above the Nabob has again excus'd himself from sending any Person of his own to the Daloway, the Major has therefore sent the Letters by a Hircara giving him a Promise of 20 Rupees if he brings an Answer.

T.C.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

From the King of Tanjour to Thomas Cooke Esq^{r} receiv'd 17th Novem^{r} 1753.

I have receiv'd your Letter and observe the Contents; You was pleas'd to mention it is best to make a Peace with Nandirauze by my means by which the Terms might be better than what you propos'd when you was here, and that you have a Letter to be sent to him; Some time ago I wrote to Nandirauze about making Peace and received some Answers from him concerning it but in the mean time the Major and the Nabob coming to me I assisted them with my Forces and Officers to defend Trichenopoly, thereupon Nandirauze sent my Vakeel away that were in his Camp and from which time all Correspondence has ceas'd between us Nandirauze being very angry with me because I sent Provisions and Forces to Trichenopoly just at the time he was going to take that Fort which prevented him from taking it. Morarow has lately sent me Letters about making Peace but that Affair did not appear well to me; I therefore rejected it which the Major and Nabob are acquainted with, you must therefore send a Letter yourself to Nandirauze and try his Opinion whether he designs to make Peace or continue at War, and in case he should be inclin'd to make Peace please to determine it for a certain Sum of Money and to mortgage certain Countries to him as a Security for it and thereupon we shall know his Opinion; you said in your Letter that the Nabob told you my Opinion was to make a Peace for certain Sums of Money for which he might give Tinnevelly and Madera for Security and tha[t] the Nabob consents to it. I shall be very glad to hear that both Parties agree to this and that the Nabob live happily in his Fort and Country, always wishing for a Friendship with the Governour and Prosperity to the Nabob, therefore think it will be good for my Country if Peace is made in that Manner; I have read a Copy of the Governour's Lette[r] which you sent me; he has wrote very properly, it will be good Luck to Nandirauze if he accepts of Peace, I agree to any Proposals that the Nabob, Governour, Major and you may make which I have spoke to you when you was with me. What can I say more?

The Purport of the Letters referr'd to in M^{r} Cookes, from him and the Nabob to the Daloway are only to acquaint him that M^{r} Cooke is empower'd to act as a Mediator, that Peace would be a general Benefit to all Parties, that a fair Opportunity now offers of accomplishing it, that he will use his best Endeavours to effect it, and desires to know whether it will be agreeab[le.]

The President lays before the Board a Letter of Compliments to him from M^{r} Dupliex (N^{o} 17) in excuse for his detaining Cap^{t} Campbell at Pondicherry to be present at the Marriage of M^{r} Dek'jean whose Life Cap^{t} Campbell sav'd at the Battle of Bawoor, in answer whereto (N^{o} 18) the President takes occasion to say he is pleas'd that an English Officer could merit his (Dupliex's) Esteem, but hopes Occasion of this Sort will be prevented in future by a speedy Reestablishment of Peace to which End both Parties should mutually exert themselves, the rather as such important Events seldom fall within the Scope & Power of Subjects.

M^{r} George Dawson lately arriv'd from Deve Cotah being now call'd before the Board and Question'd in regard to the Major's Complaint of his Behaviour to Captains Ridge and Pascal, solemnly declares that he knows of no other Reason Captain Ridge had to be dissatisfy'd but that having only one single Room he refus'd to resign it to him while he staid at Deve Cotah at which Captain Ridge was much offended. And in regard to Captain Pascal his Disgust arose from a Jealousy that he had not his proper Command upon no other Grounds than that a Subidar having complain'd to M^{r} Dawson he had not his Pay regularly he went with him to Captain Pascal who instead of redressing abus'd the Subidar and turn'd him down Stairs, he likewise complain'd that his Priviledge was infring'd because M^{r} Dawson indented Fort S^{t} David for Military Stores having found this Method necessary as they were sent very irregularly before.

Agreed that the Reverend M^{r} Palk and M^{r} Henry Vansittart be appointed Commissaries to treat with M^{r} Duplex's Commissaries in case he should offer such Terms as will admit of Treaty.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

Agreed that a small Present be sent to the King of Mysore by Vencatrow.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH

Receiv'd the two following Letters from Major Lawrence and one from Thomas Cooke Esqr. Vizt.

Honble Sir & Sirs (No 16)

6th. I have receiv'd your Favour of the 15th Instant and have answer'd yours of the 5th & 7th.

I am convinc'd that we all wish heartily for a Peace, I am sure nobody has more Reason than I have. You know my Sentiments fully on it, you know what Proposals have been made; It now only rests to pitch upon those Terms ye can make the Enemy agree to, which I make no doubt will be such as the Circumstance[s] allow, will best secure the Honour and Interest of our Masters. The Nabob must acquiesce to any thing you will please to propose; how can he pretend to make Objections. I hope your Endeavours may meet with Success and the Honble Company Will feel the good Effects of it. There is still a Mistake about the Date of one of my Letters, the Nabob's Proposals were sent inclos'd in mine of the 21st the Receipt of which is acknowledg'd by Mr Saunders in a Letter to me of the 5th November and in the one which the Nabob receiv'd the day after dated the 6th November there is no mention made of having receiv'd his Proposals but pressing him to send Terms.

I am sorry if there has been any Picque in Capt Crompton's Complaint but as the Thing was reported to me, in justice to myself and the Gentleme[n] I have the honour to Command I could do no less than enquire into it. We must have been impartial in the Affair, as the Person is a Stranger to every one of us in Camp.

Mr. Maunsell informs me there are Provisions for six Months and a half in the fort and as we are able we throw in more.

We receiv'd another Supply of Money yesterday of 8500 Pagodas. I do not apprehend there is any Danger while we stay here of the Money coming by Hircars, it runs as great a Risque coming from Tanjour as the way you send it, besides saves the Expence of 1½℔ Cent to the Shroff.

The Bill on the Daloway I have not yet sent as I very much doubt it's being accepted.

While I can stay in the Camp I will; but this Fit has broke my Constitution greatly, however I will endeavour to stay till every thing is ready to take the field and in good Order, then if my Disorder increases I must leave the Army to the next Officer under me in Command and go to some of our Settlements.

I am Gentlemen Your most Obedient
and most humble Servant
S. LAWRENCE

Coyladdy
26th. Novem. 1753.

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
Gov. & President &c Council Fort St George.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

Honble Sir & Sirs

This Minute a Hircar came in from Trichenopoly with the following Letter from Capt. Kilpatrick.

This morning between 3 & 4 oClock the Enemy attack'd the Garrison by a General Assault; Six hundred of the French got over the Outward Wall opposite Warriour and possess'd themselves of a Battery which goes by the Name of Daltons but by the gallant Behaviour of our men and Officers who so warmly repuls'd them they were oblig'd to abandon the Place with the Loss of seven or eight Officers made Prisoners and two hundred & ninety three French Soldiers besides their kill'd and Wounded which is very considerable on their Side. We have lost scarce any. He has promis'd me particulars in a day or two which I shall transmit to you Gentlemen as he sends them. I heartily give you joy of this Good News and beg every thing necessary may be forwarded to me with all Expedition to ruin the Enemy, & get the best Terms we can from them. I am Gentn.

Coyladdy
28th Novr. 1753.

Your most Obedient and most
humble Servant
S. Lawrence.

A Letter from Capt. Kilpatrick confirms the foregoing Account and adds "thirty "seven Men lay dead in the Fausse Bray of which number one Officer, we kept a "warm fire with our Guns and Musketry from the Fort on their Rear in their "Retreat by which I think they mus[t] have lost a considerable Number of Men" By the Doctors Ret[urn] "we have six or seven wounded and four kill'd.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President and Governour &c. Council of
Fort St George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Camp 26th Novem. 1753.

My last to you was dated the 19th of which the foregoing is Duplicate. As the Hircara who carried the Letters to the Daloway is not yet return'd or any Knowledge as yet procured of him it is much to be fear'd he has not met with a Friendly Reception, I have consulted the Major on what further Step to take to obtain an Answer who concurring in Opinion with me that it is the first Thing absolutely necessary, he has spar'd a Jemidar that has undertaken to go and speak to the Daloway himself to enquire if he has receiv'd our Letters and to tell him that we expect an immediate Answer. This Person set out yesterday and I hope will return in a day or two wh[ich] I shall be able to inform you whether a Correspondence with him will be admitted or not; You will observe by the King of Tanjour's Answer inserted in my last that he rejects giving us any Assistance in this Negotiation and only says that he shall agree to any Terms that the Nabob and You may approve, this too plainly shews that his Proposal of making up the Affair for 60 Lack of Rupees was only agreeable to his Wishes and without any other foundation. I am therefore much afraid those Terms are too favourable ever to succeed the Nabob though perhaps (with some Unwillingness) may I believe be brought to consent to any Method of Accommodation that may appear requisite but should Occasion lead us to have recourse to the last Article I am afraid the greatest Difficulty will be to reconcile the King of Tanjour to it, as in the Conference I had with him he question'd me very particularly whether any such Thing was intended but I took care to disguise it to him. I find the Major

——FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.——

also of Opinion that it ought by all means to be voided as such a Peace must in all probability prove hurtful and of no Duration.

I am in due form

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient

humble Servant

THOMAS COOKE.

Received General Letter from Thos. Cooke Esq. as follows

8th To THE HONBLE THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &C COUNCIL OF
FORT ST. GEORGE.

Honble Sir & Sirs Camp 27th. November 1753.

I address'd you yesterday and now forward Duplicate thereof; immediately after came in the Hircara from the Daloway with Letters from his Second Minister nam'd Vencata Row, the Copies of which I now transmit to you, as also the Answer I have made to them. The Nabob is much offended at not receiving an answer from hi[m]self; It is certainly treating him with great Indifference and looks as if he had no Inclination to come to an Accommodation, on any other Terms but by giving him the Fort of Trichenopoly but this will be better confirm'd in his ne[xt] Answer. The Person he sent to me to talk on this Bus[i]ness was a low fellow and quite ignorant of all Affairs. I have therefore sent him back and desired him to send another. He whom I requested was formerly in the Nabob's Service and is known by him to be a capable Person. For all further particulars you will be pleas'd to refer to the Copy of my answer inclos'd. I am in due form

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedt. Humble Ser[v.]

THOMAS COOKE

Translate of a Letter from Vencaty Row belonging to the Daloway

To THOMAS COOKE ESQR Receiv'd 26th. November 1753.

By a Letter sent to the King I understand the Contents you said that you are sent as a Mediator for to accommodate a friendship between the Nabob and him; the King's Desire is to have the Fort agreeable to the Nabob's former Agreement which you are acquainted with, you are a Gentleman to satisfy both Parties. I hope you will perform accordingly; Send word by Vencojee Puntaloo in this Affair.

Vencatrow's Letter to the Nabob is to the same Effect and Mr Cooke's answer to the Daloway is to be to the following Purport; That his returning an answer by his Minister instead of writing it himself is a great Slight to the Nabob and what is not customary amongst the Princes, that though the Nabob by his Successe[s] has acquir'd a great Superiority, yet he is willing to make Peace on reasonable Terms, that is to give him (the Daloway) a Sum of Money & certain Countries for Security and conclude with desiring that if he is inclin'd to Peace he will write of it himself to the Nabob and send a proper Person to treat.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHS. BOURCHIER

—*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*—

General Letters to Major Lawrence, Thomas Cooke Esq[r], and Cap[t]. Kilpatrick 9th sign'd and sent as follows.

To Stringer Lawrence Esq[r] Commander in chief of all the Company's Forces in India.

Sir

We wrote you the 22[d] Ultimo and have since receiv'd your Letters of the 19[th] 21[st]. 26[th] & 28[th] Ultimo with one of the 19[th]. to the President.

The Commission for holding Courts Martial is drawn out exactly agreeable to Charter, what we wrote you on the head is usual on such Commissions being given. M[r]. Devisme is we hear dead we now therefore forward a Commission appointing M[r]. Maunsel Judge Advocate and desire you will return that design'd for M[r]. Devisme.

Captain Campbell has a Commission as Captain and M[r]. Innes that of Captain Lieutenant, his state of Health renders him incapable of Field Duty as Captain Pascal is we hear perfectly recover'd; we purpose sending M[r] Innis to Devecotah and ordering M[r] Pascal to Camp as w[e] observe your want of Officers; we have confirm'd Captain Kilpatrick in the Command at Trichenopoly.

We have already wrote you our Sentiments i[n] regard to the Command with our Apprehensions in case the Army should be left to the Conduct of a young Officer thou[gh] we are extremely well satisfyed with their Behaviour, yet a[s] the whole Stress of our Affairs depends on it we think we cannot act with too much Circumspection; Sensible of the Fatigue so long a Campaign must be to you we should glad[ly] relieve you but find only one Method of doing it, the sending for Colonel Scott who we believe will readily come, you are acquainted with the Circumstances of his Commission and therefore we should be glad you would inform us in wha[t] manner he and you are to act so as it may be agreeable to you both.

We are sensible that Difficulties must arise in getting so large a Quantity of Provisions as are requi[r'd] for Trichenopoly, the Advantages attending the furnishing a[n] Army are so great that the Buzzar People generally find means to effect it, at this Distance we judge the King of Tanjour and Tondaman the only Resource and shall not fail strongly to press it to them though we doubt whether the former will think it his Interest to do it as we should then be at Liberty to remove the Seat of War where Occasion might require and he may apprehend his Country will not then be so secure.

The Nabob's Letter we conceive has been wrong interpreted to you as in it is no mention of desiring Instructions but particularly the Terms insisted on by the Mysore Vakeel, what had been done in regard to M[r] Dupliex was also mention'd and the same had been wro[te] to the King of Tanjour which is acting in as open & generou[s] a manner as possible; By the Copy of M[r] Dupliex's Letter you will perceive he affects to give Law to all Parties and particularly says that to support the Nabob is only to fan the flame which cannot be extinguish'd while he is in the Country, our Design was to have a Conference when we could perceive from his Proposals whether any Good could come of it and purpose when he replies to our last sending Mess[rs]. Palk and Vansittart; you will perceive that though our Endeavours are to conclude a Peace, the Terms from M[r]. Dupliex are to drop the Nabob and get him a Jageer from the Mysore Daloway the 4[th] Article, how far their last Repulse may change their Sentiments is a Question but we doubt not so that our Negotiation with Vencatrow rest in this Point that the Daloway would comply with every thing if the Fort was deliver'd up except the fifteen Lack but will not hearken to accommodating the Affair on Security of certain Countrys; we don't think the Nabob hearty in his Intention of Treaty and that the King of Tanjour is entirely averse to it except on his own Terms and here lies one of the Greatest Difficulties to surmount as the Daloway is fix'd in his Resolution we shall endeavour to negotiate wth the King of Mysore himself and send Vencatrow with our Vakeel for that Purpose.

——FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.——

We have remitted largely to S^{t}. David and M^{r} Starke has orders to supply you.

By the Returns of our Garrison you will see our Strength and how far we are able to send a Reinforcement.

Captain Campbell whose coming into Pondicherry M^{r}. Dupliex requested reports Shaik Hussan to be there, that there may be about 100 Men of all Nations in Garrison, Several Boats Load of Ammunition sent to Allumparra and a large Quantity by Land to Gingee it is expected Moratta Horse will be detach'd from their Army. Abdul Bob Cawn is preparing to come to Conjeveram and we shall join him with a Party from hence.

We rejoice with you in the late Success against the Enemy; the Number of Prisoners is what attracts our Consideration, we have ordered Captain Kilpatrick to advise with you concerning them and think if the Officers in general were remov'd, it might in some measure prevent their Schemes.

We are

Fort S^{t} George
9th. December 1753.

Sir

Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

To THOMAS COOKE Esq^{R}.

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letters of the 19th. 26th & 27th. with Copies of those to and from the King of Tanjour and the Daloway, by the former it appears that his Proposals to accommodate Affairs for 60 Lack on Security of Countries are vanish'd and that he is entirely averse to Treaty on any Terms we are likely to get, the Behaviour of the latter has been very indecent, may be term'd insolent and gives us reason to believe the Influence his Allies have over him is very considerable, we wish the late Repulse may have effect but doubt whether he will hearken to any other Measures than the 4th. Article & we are therefore come to a Resolution to try our Efforts with the Mysore King himself, as we made very extensi[ve] Proposals to the King of Tanjour his answer will clearly convince us of his Sentiments, we have always been of Opinion and agree with you that the difficult Point is [to] reconcile the Affair to this Prince and we wish the Nabob may not be under other Engagements to him than what has been told us; You are right in being reserv'd and speaking of it nicely to him, the same Circumspection is necessary in regard to Succojee Naik, Monagee has always appear'd sincere in the Nabob's Interest. The Nabob is not sincerely inclin'd to the Treaty but this Obstacle may be remov'd when he must with the strongest Reason be convinc'd that it will not be in his Power to keep from them by force what they demand by Treaty.

We are

Sir

Your affectionate Friends

THO^{S}. SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHA^{S}. BOURCHIER

Fort S^{t} George
9 December 1753.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

To Captain James Kilpatrick.

Sir

Major Lawrence advises us of his having confer'd on you the Command of Trichenopoly which we confirm and direct that with the Nabob's Amuldar you in behalf of the Circar defend that Fort to the last Extremity we suppose Captain Dalton has deliver'd you an Account of Stores and Provisions in the Place with a Return of the Company's and Nabob's Troops, Copies of which you will send us and be careful to transmit monthly your Accounts as well the Issues and Receipts of Stores as Receipts and Expence of Provisions that we may be the better able to form a Judgment of your Situation. We congratulate you on your late Success over the Enemy, the number of Prisoners must now be very considerable especially when compared with the Strength of the Garrison which particularly requires your greatest Circumspection, Consult with the Nabob and Major Lawrence in the disposal of them in such manner as may prevent any Designs prejudicial to your Safety. Write us constantly the necessary that we may be able the better to give you the proper Assistance.

We are
Sir

Fort S^{t} George
9$^{th.}$ December 1753.

Your affectionate Friends

Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

At a Consultation *Present* Monday the 10th

Thomas Saunders Esq$^{R.}$ Govern$^{R.}$ Pres$^{DT.}$
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq. read as follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{R}
President and Governour &c^{A} Council
of Fort S^{t} George.

Honble Sir & Sirs Camp at Coyladdy 1st Decem. 1753.

My last to you was under date the 27th Ultimo as ℔ Duplicate annex'd, you have since been inform'd of the great Success gain'd over the Enemy in an attempt they made upon the Fort of Trichenopoly on which I now do myself the Pleasure of congratulating yo[u.] This Action seems to have lower'd the Daloway's Views not a little, our Jemidar return'd from him yesterday with a Message purporting that he was well inclin'd to a Peace and being satisfy'd the Nabob would never be prevail'd on to part with Trichenopoly, he would be content with a Sum of money desiring the Nabob would consider what he had advanc'd as likewise the large Sum that was drawn from his Country last year by Balazarow which he lays to his account as he supposes it to have been through his Contrivance & withall has recommended to us to send him immediately the Nabob's Proposals with this Intimation that if we were

——FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.——

not speedy in it he was well assur'd all would be settled in Madrass by your Hon^r. &c^a. In consequence of this Message the Nabob has condescended to make an Opening of his Proposals by the Terms that you will see specified in the inclos'd Letters which he and I have sent him. They are but small in Comparison to what was before intended, being design'd as a Tryal if any Advantages can be reap'd from the late Success, I have the Major's Approbation of them and hope they will meet with yours as the King of Tanjours delay in not sending out his Troops, gives great Reason to fear he is trifling with us; The Major has recommended it to me as absolutely necessary I should wait on him to let him know in the plainest manner the Consequence of such Behaviour and how much it concerns his true Interest I am therefore going to set out for that Place from whence I shall continue to inform you of all Occurrences and remain in due form

Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient hum̃. Serṽ.

THOMAS COOKE

THOMAS COOKE ESQ^R TO THE DALOWAY Dated 1^st December 1753.

I sent you a Letter three days ago to which you have sent no Answer, I understand from Sydoo Meer Jemidar whom I sent to talk with you upon Affairs that you are willing to make up all Differences with the Nabob on Condition that he pays you all the Money you have advanc'd on his Account, I am very glad that you have thought so well on it. If you continue in this mind there may be a Peace concluded very soon, and all Parties will enjoy great Happiness. I have discours'd with the Nabob who has empower'd me to make the following Proposals viz^t

1stly. You are to renounce your Agreement with the French and to retire immediately with all your force unto your own Country.

2d. You are to engage Morarow to do the same.

3d. You are ever after to keep a strict Alliance with the Nabob and if at any time he has occasion to apply to you, you must assist him with your forces, he paying the Expence.

4. The English, King of Tanjour and Tondaman are to be included in this Alliance and to act as Guarantees for the performance of this Treaty which must be sign'd by the contracting Parties and whichever of them shall at any time infringe it he is to be deem'd an Enemy by all the rest.

5. All the Parties shall jointly use their Influence to promote a Peace with the French.

6. If either one of the Parties contain'd in this Alliance be attack'd the rest shall support him, the party attack['d] defraying all Charges.

7. If you agree to these Articles and will engage by writing under your hand to perform all and every one of the Conditions herein specified, the Nabob will oblige himself on his part to satisfy you in the full Sum of Thirty Lack of Rupees and for the true & just Payment of which he will mortgage to you the Country of Tinnevelly for Security, the said Sum to be esteem'd and acknowledg'd by you to be in full Satisfaction of all your Demands on him from the Beginning of the World to the Day on which this Treaty shall be concluded, if you do not consent to these Proposals you will meet with great Losses.

Agreed that Vencatrow's Departure on the intended Negotiation at Syringapatam be postpon'd untill it appear what turn the present Overtures from the Dalloway may take, that M^r Cooke and the Major be desired to pursue the treaty but nevertheless to omit no Opportunity of distressing the Dalloway.

The President lays before the Board the Country Correspondence &c^a.

Captain Dalton writes that he resign'd the Command of Trichenopoly to Cap^t. Kilpatrick the 14^th Ultimo & has had all his accounts examin'd & sign'd by the Nabob.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*———

Captain Pigou and Abdul Bob Cawn advise that the Killedar of Chetteput had declar'd for Nabob Mahomed Allee Cawn & hoisted his Colours accordingly in the Fort.

Captain Lin at Changleput declares he never did receive the double Batta as mention'd in Consultation the 19th Ultimo.

The Nabob and Abdul Bob Cawn desiring Leave for the Family of the latter to reside at Madrass under the Company's Protection Agreed that it be granted.

Letter from the Nabob enclosing Copy of one from his Vakeel in Salabat Jung's Camp with Copy of a Phirmaund from the Mogul to Salabat Jung and advising that Salabat Jung had sent a Messenger to the Nabob and intended after the Monsoon to go to Syringapatam and then to the Carnateck.

The Board are of Opinion these Advices are not to be depended upon.

A Letter from Monsr Goupil at Pondicherry requesting that Mr. Astruc a Prisoner at Trichenopoly may be permitted to come to Pondicherry on his Parole to settle some Affairs of a private Nature, promising that the Parole shall be religiously observ'd or in default he will surrender himself a voluntary Prisoner in Mr. Astruc's Place.

Agreed that in answer he be acquainted Mr Astruc is not ours but the Nabob's Prisoner to whom he must apply.

A Letter from the President to Murtaz Ally Cawn Phousdar at Veloor acquainting him of the Nabob's Successes advising him to accommodate his Differences with the Nabob and offering in that case to send him a Cowle and desiring that as a mark of his good Intentions he will release Lieut[t] Smith and a few other Englishmen Prisoners in his Fort.

The King of Tanjour being frequently in want of Gunpowder Saltpetre and other Stores for which his Vakeel has made Application to the President Agreed that he be supplied from time to time with what he may want of this kind as far as to the amount of the Annu[al] Present reserved to him in consideration of the Grant of Devecotah.

The Number of French Prisoners in Trichenopoly being now very considerable and amongst them nine or ten Officers, by whom tis to be apprehended Schemes may be continually forming that may endanger the place. The Board are of opinion it would be proper to release the latter on their Paroles never to serve in India unless exchang'd Agreed that Major Lawrence be consulted hereon.

The Accounts of Money receiv'd and paid for Batta to Troops in the Nabob's Service, Repairs of Fort, &c. being frequently perplex'd and irregular Agreed th[at] Mess Charles Boddam, Henry Powney, and Alexander Wynch be a Committee to examine all Accounts whatsoever with the Nabob or any way relating to the Country Government.

And the Renter of Tripoty his Acc of Moneys receiv'd & paid for the years 1752 and the prese[nt] year being laid before the Board Order'd that it be referr'd to the said Committee to examine & report.

THOS. SAUNDERS
CHAS. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
AR. WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHAS. BOURCHIER

——FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.——

13th General Letters to Major Lawrence and Mr Cooke sign'd and sent as follow.

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr. Commander in Chief of all the Company's Forces in India.

Sir

By Mr Cooke's Letter of the 1st December we observe the Daloway had sent a Message that he was ready to treat, it might raise some Jealousy that he does not write his Proposals and give Room to doubt his Sincerity, and think his Intention was only to amuse we imagine this won't in the least divert you from pursuing such measures as may distress him. Mr Dupliex we are inform'd has sent about fifty men to Syringam. Abdul Bob Cawn writes that the Killedar of Chetteput has hoisted the Nabob's Colours and it is reported that Morarow's Nephew who was left as a hostage for him at Pondicherry has made his Escape and is gone to Syringam.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants

Fort St George
13th. December 1753.

Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

To Thomas Cooke Esqr

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 1st Instant with Copy of yours and the Nabobs to the Daloway and the Articles of Treaty propos'd, the Daloway's twice paying so little Regard to the Nabob's and your Letters as not to answer them gives no promising hopes to the Message sent by the Jemidar one would almost doubt the Truth of it or at least imagine he intended to amuse therefore we think no time is to be lost; acquaint us as soon as possible with the Result of the Nabob's Proposals which We cannot think will be accepted.

We are Sir Your Affectionate Friends

Fort St George
13th. December 1753.

Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

17th Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Dupliex dated the 8th Instant N° 19 in answer to the Presidents of the 27th. which requiring a speedy Resolution in regard to a Conference. The Secretary by the President's Direction communicated the said Letter to the several Gentlemen of Council and took their Opinions thereon in consequence of which it was agreed that a Conference be held at Sadrass and that the Revd. Mr. Robert Palk and Mr Henry Vansittart Commissaries appointed for that purpose on our part proceed thither so as to arrive on or before the 30th Instant, not that it is imagin'd this Measure will be productive of Peace since Mr. Dupliex still persists in not acknowledging Mahomud Ally but that he may have no Reason to say he propos'd a Conference which was rejected.

Pursuant to the above Resolution a Letter from the Preside[nt] to Mr. Dupliex was this day sent as enter'd in the French Correspondence N° 20.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

Thursday the 20th

AT A CONSULTATION *Present*

THOMAS SAUNDERS Esq^R. Gov^R. PRESID^T.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER,

Two General Letter from Major Lawrence read as follows

(N^o. 17.)

Honble Sir & Sirs

I have receiv'd yours of the 22^d acknowledging the different Receipts of mine of the 2^d. 5^th. 8^th and 11^th November.

The Men that want their Discharges have met with Encouragement according to their Merit Partiality in promotions is what can hardly happen, for what Interest can move an Officer to prefer men that can be of no Service to him. The Bombay Detachment shall be sent back; there is one European belongs to it and he also asks his Discharge; the man's Reasons are very strong, his time is out and besides five hundred Pounds left him which he runs a Chance of losing by staying here.

I told you Gentlemen in some of my foregoing Letters it was possible you might be mistaken in your Intelligence. In this Attack of Trichenopoly they had eight hundred men besides the Guards left in Syringam and their sick in the Hospital. About half of the Men taken Prisoners were a part of the 200 sent up from Golcondah as a Reinforcement since the Battle. Besides the Accounts of those Parties I have receiv'd from you we never heard one word of these People come from (their grand Army as they call it) till we had the Good Fortune to take them Prisoners; It is plain then you see that the French had here at least 1000 men; that Number exceeds ours. Besides their Topasses that never mix in Battalion with them as ours do and make a very large Party by themselves.

M^r Cooke is gone to Tanjour to endeavour to settle our Affairs on a better footing. The King is far from acting as we could wish and I am afraid Succojee's Interest is too prevailing; there are none of his troops join'd us yet though so often promis'd and even the few left in Camp with me had no money so that yesterday when we march'd they could not come with us.. In his last Letter which is but very cool he desires me not to write so often about his Troops coming up, that they are night [*Sic*] enough by being at Tanjour; I receiv'd your inclos'd to M^r Cooke and open'd it according to his Directions; As it was seal'd with the Company's Seal I am certain that Gentleman will do all in his Power for the publick Good. His not coming up 'till the 5^th. of November though order'd the 12^th. of September I suppose you are not ignorant of the Reasons. I always strongly recommended the Use of having somebody there. I hope we may not feel the Consequences of it's being defer'd so long.

If M^r. Dupliex will think of a Peace and offers Terms there is one thing which I seriously recommend to you which is the Agreement about Prisoners. Consider what a Number of Men more we have of them than they of ours. An equal Exchange of Man for Man is very right but then if the whole is granted them, how much we shall be in their Power by such a Superiority if they chuse at any time to break a Peace when they may imagine they have an Advantage. We know they are not very scrupulous.

Pray let M^r. Dupliex know once for all that the Nabob will not give the Prisoners any more Provisions and insists upon their being supply'd by them; It may easily be done from Syringam, let him know the Consequence of his not giving immediate Orders about it, for the Supplies are actually stopp'd. He has been wrote to three times about this Article and has never sent an Answer.

I marched yesterday and am encamp'd on Cap^t Gingins Old Ground. I was oblig'd to it to preve[nt] any more attempts on the fort as also to be at hand [to] observe the Enemy's Motions.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

The Behaviour of Captain Kilpatrick and the Officers with him, Harrison, Nelson and Dickenson deserves Gentlemen your Thanks. Indeed I think the Courage and Conduct of the Officers in general need not have made you afraid there was nobody fit to command besides me; you mention it too as if I had been capable of saying it myself "and observe with you there is nobody fit for the Command" them are your Words. My Paragraph about Capt. Dillens was far from meaning or I am sure from saying any such thing. You must have misunderstood it; there are Officers to command whose Capacity You nor I need never doubt. Such Expressions, if the force of them is not consider'd and are made use of in Letters or common Conversation (and that without any Grounds) if they come to be reported may create ill Blood between me and my Officers; A thing which we ought most carefully to avoid.

As to Officers from Bengal if you please to give Directions as you have before and as you may think consistent with the Good of the Service.

The Daloway has never so much as sent an answer about the Bill drawn on him.

Mr. Maunsell will answer the Paragraph about the Money, any method you please to put in Practice that does not endanger Delay in the Payment of the Troops are the best.

Lieut. Percival is gone sick to Fort St. David. That Gentleman does not seem by his Disposition fit for a Soldier, he has never done any Duty since he join'd us, nor to all Appearance is he fond of it. If you can provide for him in the Civil Way perhaps he may be of use; As for our Profession he will never do.

I am Gentlemen Your most Obedient
& most humble Servant
STRINGER LAWRENCE.

Camp
6th. Decr. 1753.

The Honble Thos. Saunders Esqr Govr and
President &ca Council of Fort St George.

Honble Sir & Sirs (No. 18)

Inclos'd is a Return of the Forces with me and in Trichenopoly. Mr Maunsell on account of his ill State of Health could not as I intended take a general Muster, as soon as he recovers you shall have one.

I beg you will look over the Return I send and peruse the two Columns of European Centinells and Corporals in Camp, you will find the Number to be 353 this is the whole of my European force that carry Muskets, the rest is made up by Topasses, Coffreys and the Train of Artillery which cannot be included as they do not serve in Battalion. I sent you an Account in my last of the Enemy's Force; you may judge from what they lost in the Affair against Trichenopoly & what remains that a little Reinforcement will make them again superiour to me in Europeans, as to Black People they are at present at least five to one.

I do not mention this Gentlemen to alarm you needlessly or as if I thought worse now of Affairs than formerly but to shew you I am not elevated by Success, that I know the vast odds that I am oblig'd to engage against when I attack the Enemy is an Action only to be warranted but by the absolute Necessity that obliges me to it and would be far (though attended with Success) to be reconcil'd to myself as a Soldier and much less to the world that censures often without Cause; Were not the Extremities I am drove to appare[nt.] This Good Fortune may not continue and should it happen otherwise the true reason may not be given for it but imputed to my Rashness or Misconduct. To prevent this I beg your Orders for my Motions. You may say I am the best Judge as being on the Spot particulars I may, but as to general Affairs, the Consequences attending the Loss of a Battle or the necessity of giving one you can very well judge of, as you perfectly know my Situation by my

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

Letters. Let me then have your Orders and Opinions; I will execute them to the best of my power. If I am unfortunate enough to miscarry Calumny will not have such hold, at least I shall not be blam'd alone.

I acquainted you M^r^ Cooke was at Tanjour, I receive'd a Letter last Night from Ramah Naick who by this is also arriv'd there. I have answer'd it and desir'd him jointly to consult with M^r^ Cooke.

The Enemy only trifle with us as I can find; The King of Mysore will not write, says he has given his Oath of it to the French, never to write, without their Knowledge; and his verbal Proposals are such as he knows we cannot accept of. Monagee I am inform'd is set out with some troops to join us.

The Dalloway has sent word he will not pay the Bill, he says if we detain his Vakeel by force we must pay his Expences, I believe you can get the Money from nobody but the Man himself.

I omitted to acquaint you in my last that Captain Saunderson was oblig'd to return on account of his Health. I have but two Captains of Infantry in the field with me. I beg some more may be sent.

I am Gentlemen Your most Obedient and most humble servant

Camp
7^th^ December 1753.

S. LAWRENCE.

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r^
Gov. Pres^dt^ &c^a^ Council of Fort S^t^ George.

The President lays before the Board a Letter from M^r^ Dupliex to Captain Schaub with Copies of Letters from the English Officers to him and from Captain Caillaud in the name of the English Officers to M^r^ Mainville at Syringam wherein they say that the Nabob having determin'd not to maintain the French Prisoners any longer, they (the Officers) had agreed to contribute towards supporting them for about ten days to prevent their Starving and that if he (Dupliex) should abandon them in this Distress he cannot be surpriz'd if they should do so too, since they are Prisoners to the Nabob and not to the English, besides it is well known that no Sovereign in Europe ever subsisted the Prisoners made upon the Enemy. M^r^ Dupliex in his Letter to Captain Schaub (which with the Officers he desires him to lay before the President) says it is surprizing that Officers who ought to understand what is the Law of Nations and the Establish'd Custom in Europe should write that a Sovereign in Europe never subsists the Prisoners he makes upon his Enemy, that he is sorry to send such Letters to Europe and that if by this Subterfuge they endeavour to lessen the Irregularity of the Conduct of Mahomed Ally Cawn they expos[e] themselves more than they think for.

Ordered that a Copy of M^r^ Dupliex ['s] Letter be sent to Major Lawrence.

There being a great Demand for Fire Arms Agreed that Major Lawrence be desired to purchase on the Company's Account the best of such as may at any time be taken from the Enemy & to mark all the Seapoys arms with the Company's Chop to prevent their exchanging them.

The Board having consider'd what Officers can be sent to Camp in the room of those return'd from thence are of Opinion that it is but reasonable every one should ta[ke] his Turn of Duty and therefore

Ordered that Cap^t^ George Gardner at Fort S^t^ David take the field and that Cap^t^ Donald Campbell succeed him in the Command at Fort S^t^ David.

That Cap^t^ Charles Campbell relieve Cap^t^ William Lin in the Command at Changleput and that the latter be ordered to Camp.

——— *FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*———

That Cap^{t}· Lieut^{t}· John Innis take the Command at Deve Cotah in the room of Cap^{t}· Edm^{d}· Pascal and that he proceed to Camp.

And that Cap^{t} Grenville, Lieut. Speers and Voluntier Clark be sent to Camp by the first Sea Conveyance that may offer from hence to S^{t}· David.

Draught of a General Letter to Major Lawrence read and approv'd as follows

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq^{R}
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALL THE COMPANY'S FORCES IN INDIA.

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letters of the 6th & 7th Instant.

By Cap^{t} Schaub who has obtain'd Liberty to come here on Parole we are inform'd about 350 Men were sent from Pondicherry to Syringam after their first Defeat and 50 since their Attempt on Trichenopoly; few remain and some of the Officers have declin'd the Command alledging that to head new rais'd Troops dispirited by continual Defeats against an Army flush'd with Victory is certain Loss of Reputation to their Commander.

'Tis surmis'd by some and (when we consider that the Attack on Trichenopoly was a desperate Action, the wounded few, the kill'd fewer and those that surrender'd are numerous) We cannot but suspect M^{r}· Dupliex's Scheme is to endeavour to compass that by Treachery which he could not gain by force of Arms and hence our Apprehension from the number of Prisoners, greatly disproportionable to the Garrison. We should be glad of your Sentiments in regard to the Officers who we think should if possible be remov'd or releas'd on their Parole never to serve again in India, When the Safety of the Place and the very being of the Nabob's Family is at Stake we must think he cannot be too careful to secure the Prisoners in a manner the most likely to prevent so melancholy an Accident. This may add to the Weight of their unhappy Situation but when Self Preservation is put in the Ballance, the whole World though they may pity their Misfortune will judge it an act of Prudence in the Nabob and acquit him of even the Shadow of Cruelty.

By Copy of a Letter from M^{r}· Dupliex you will perceive his Sentiments as to peace, as the Copy of our Reply will shew you our Intentions, when he absolutely objects to the Basis propos'd for Treaty from a Conference what can be expected; As these Transactions are laid before Ours and his Superiours he may mean to disculpate himself and throw the Odium of the War on us. The plausible Offers which flow so easily from his Pen dictated by his Van[i]ty seem to favour this Opinion for where has he means or Authority to make good his Promises; his Success fluctuating and as ours depending on the Chance of War, ever precarious. If we examine these Proposals closely what are they more than he promises the Nabob shall have a Jageer and we be reimburs'd our Advance on Condition that the Nabob release 1000 Prisoners and divest himself of his Allies by which means he will be able to pursue his Schemes at Aurungabad and conquer the whole Country and then be at Liberty to break or keep his Promises when no one will be able to oblige him to the Performance of them; this Affair is of a very serious Nature and we are of Opinion we cannot be too cautious for tis much easier to prevent than to apply Remedies afterwards. It has been thought proper to appoint Commissaries, they will proceed to Sadras so as to be there the 30th Instant.

We are sorry to observe there is a Jealousy in the King of Tanjour, the most reasonable Conjecture is that it proceeds from his Apprehensions of our Measures in Treaty with the French and Mysore Daloway, we know of no means to dispel it but by assuring him of our Inviolable Attachment to him and that no Steps shall be taken previous to his Knowledge or any thing concluded hurtful to his Interest. The Punctuality that we have observ'd with the Nabob should we think confirm his Confidence. Succojee Naik seems but too much of the French Party. We observe his Endeavours to inculcate to the King of Tanjour a bad Opinion of Ramah Naik

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*———

but as the Tanjour Vakeel here is a Creature of his, 'tis the more necessary that a Person in whom we can confide should be there, the President has therefore recommended him to the King's Favour.

As Jealousy is so inherent in these People, we wish this Conference may not, as well as make the King of Tanjour uneasy, throw into M^r^· Dupliex's hands the Power of treating for the Dalloway also. If a Peace should take Place between the Nabob and M^r^· Dupliex the other may be easily manag'd, if not we may possibly do it ourselves, would it not be more adviseable to treat with him Separately; the negotiation with Vencatrow continues just the same as when we before wrote you. Inclos'd are Copies of Letters to the Nabob and King of Tanjour, also of one from a Jemidar belonging to Morarow, he is so dangerous a Person and the Nabob & we are so little able to satisfy any Engagement, which we conclude would be lucrative to him, that we decline making any Advances 'till we are appriz'd of the Nabob's Sentiments.

Your movement towards Trichenopoly will we hope prevent any further Attempts of the Enemy. We have already congratulated Captain Kilpatrick on his Gallant Behaviour, we shall write to Bengal in regard to Voluntiers and Bombay for Officers. We shall use our utmost Endeavours to send you a small Reinforcement, 'tis with Concern we observe the Superiority of the Enemy's Army but with great Pleasure the Gallant Behaviour of the Nabob's and our utmost Endeavours will not be wanting to promote their Success.

You desire our Orders and Opinion, these are our Sentiments on the present Situation of Affairs and the first thing that appears to us necessary to be done is to throw as large a Quantity of Provisions as possible into Trichenopoly; the other Operations of the Army depending entirely on the Motions of the Enemy cannot admit of positive Directions from hence; they must depend on your Judgment and we are perswaded you will act for the best.

It was by no means our Intention to cast any Reflection on the Officers or create any Misunderstanding between you and them. We are well satisfy'd with their Conduct and are sensible that Success often depends on a Confidence in each other, in regard to the Command we have already wrote you.

We send you inclos'd a Copy of a Letter from M^r^ Dupliex to Cap^t^ Schaub on the Subject of a Letter address'd to him by the whole Corps of English Officers and another from Cap^t^ Caillaud to M^r^· Mainville in relation to the Subsistence of the French Prisoners.

As the Demand for Fire Arms is great if the best of those that may be taken from the Enemy could be purchas'd for the Company's Account we think it would be an advantage to do so and if the Arms were all mark'd with the Company's Chop it might prevent the Seapoys from exchanging Good for bad, which has sometimes been the Case here.

Upon Captain Dalton's Resignation a Vacancy will be made for a Lieut^t^ Captain; Lieut Thomas Browne stands next on the List, we are averse to supercede any one without just Reason, but desire your Opinion of this Gentleman.

We think it is but right that Every Officer should take their Turns in the Field and shall therefore order Captains Gardner, Pascal Lin and Grenville Lieut^t^· Spears and Voluntier Clark to proceed forthwith to Camp, the three first are to be reliev'd in their respective Commands by Captain Donald Campbell at S^t^· David, Captain Charles Campbell at Changleput, and Captain Lieutenant John Innis at Devecotah.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Fort S^t^ George
20^th^ December 1753.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

Captain Kilpatrick at Trichenopoly advises that he had drawn on us for five hundred Pagodas in favour of Buckunjee Coshedos and three hundred Pagodas in favour of Amboidoss Ordered that they be accepted when presented and paid when due.

Pallamcota a Fort in the Chellumbrum Country having been a considerable time besieg'd by a Party of the French and Seapoys. Mr Hopkins at Devecotah writes that he had detach'd a Party from thence under the Command of Ensign Frazer to drive the Enemy away at whose Approach they abandon'd their Enterprize though they had made a large Breach in the Wall and might easily have taken it.

Agreed that the several Officers in the Out Garrisons be directed not to make any Repairs whatever without express Orders but that they represent what is necessary to be done and that a proper Person be sent to survey the same and deliver in an Estimate of the Charge attending such Repairs.

The President lays before the Board the Country Correspondence amongst which are the following vizt.

A Letter from Serapetty row one of Morarow's Jemidars to Comrapah, the President's late Dubash making some Overtures for an Accommodation with the Nabob and that no answer be return'd untill his sentiments be known, it is hower [*Sic*] the Opinion of the Board that if Morarow could be prevail'd on to return to his own Country it would be better than entering into any fresh Engagements with him as it is out of the Nabob's Power to comply with such as he would certainly require.

From Vizaram Rauze giving an account of his Victory over the Nabob of the Rajahmundrum Country.

Also Letters from the King of Tanjour Nabob Anaverdy Cawn, Cuddapah Nabob &ca. which contain nothing material.

Nine Englishmen who were Prisoners at Chetteput having wrote to the President that on the Killedar's declaring for the Nabob they were releas'd and were ready to assist him in defending the Fort, the President wrote to them to do so and that all fitting Encouragement should be given them.

Draught of a Letter from the Presidt. to Salabat Jung and one to Sydoo Lascar Cawn his Duan are read and approv'd, acquainting them of our late Successes & that we are ready to do every thing in support of the Circar & to maintain those Rights and Priviledges of Trade which the Mogul and his Officers have granted us.

Thos. Saunders.
Chas. Boddam.
Henry Powney.
Ar. Wynch.
John Smith.
Chs. Bourchier.

224 Receiv'd the following Letter from Mr Cooke vizt

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President and Governour &ca. Council
of Fort St George.

Honble Sir & Sirs Tanjour 9th December 1753.

My last address to you was from Camp under date the 1st Instant as ℔ Duplicate inclos'd I do not yet know how those Proposals have been digested by the Dalloway but Report says that both he & Morarow are at their Wits End since the Army have mov'd towards them. The late blow they receiv'd at Trichenopoly has weaken'd them so extremely that I am much of Opinion they would call out for a Peace louder than us if we were for a short time to shew ourselves less eager for it.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

The Overtures we have already made has doubtless possess'd them with a Notion of bringing the Nabob to their own terms, in which they will likely continue 'till they see the Tanjour Troops join'd and Advances made for another Brush; we now seem to have a greater Advantage over them than ever as the Odds of European Force, the chiefest Part that was ever regarded must I think be somewhat in our favour which I believe is far more than was a little time ago expected. The King here has at last determin'd on sending out his Troops and every thing is preparing for their speedy Procedure which he has promis'd me shall be in four or five days at furthest. This I am endeavouring to hasten all in my power and as their joining of the Army may probably put the Major on some further Undertaking. I am in that case inclin'd to think the Event of it will end in Terms infinitely more advantagious than can now be pretended to, however as my Return to Camp will be very shortly, a Conference with the Major will better determine these matters.

I was yesterday favour'd with your Letter of the 22^{d} Ultimo and observe your Directions for to mortgage the whole Country to the King of Tanjour if he will be Security & settle Matters with the Dalloway which at a suitable Time I shall have recourse to, after discoursing the Nabob and obtaining his Consent to it; but the foregoing Reasons induce me to think at present a short Pause not unnecessary 'till we see the Success of what has been already offer'd, as likewise the Event of a few days. This I have refer'd to the Major & shall conform to his Opinion. I believe your Sentiments may be very right in regard to the King's Proposal of making up Affairs for sixty Lacks of Rupees. It looks designed only to divert the time and keep off the last Article, his consent to which you may depend on it, will never be procured. His Friendship at this Juncture ought certainly to be preserved and is what I shall do all in my power to contribute to; however I cannot but remark from his dilatory Behaviour that it seems to be continued on his Side only because he is afraid to be otherwise, the Welfare of his own Dominions is too much at Stake and it is to the Sense of this alone that we are beholden for all his Assistance. Monajee is at present under the King's Displeasure having refus'd going out to command the Troops without being restor'd to his former Priviledges. I was oblig'd to intercede but in a tender manner for him (as insisting too strongly might have prov'd of ill Consequence) but without Effect. However it succeeded so far as to get Gadirow appointed in his room instead of Arnegerapah who was before intended. His high Distin[ction] at this Court I suppose you are not unacquainted with therefore may be sensible of the favour. He is thought to be a good Friend to the General Cause. I should be ready to compl[y] with your Recommendation in taking notice of Monogee but the present Situation he is in makes it necessary to be avoided. Succojee is certainly a great Enemy and of much Inconvenience on all Occasions, it will be entirely out of my Power to remove this. Your Letters to the King and Nabob have been deliver'd. Ramah Naick arriv'd without the Town on the 5th past, but a good day not having presented, has not yet made his Appearance. I have sent repeatedly to him to desire him to think of it.

I have duly observ'd your repeated Caution to be moderate in my Expences; This you will rest assur'd of my strict Obedience to and that you may be a timely Judge of them propose transmitting my account to you regularly every month; Accordingly I now enclose that to Ult^{o} November desiring if it does not appear so confin'd as might be expected you will please to have regard to the Presents made and the Necessaries provided at my setting out. Those for the future will I hope be considerably reduc'd; of the 61 Cooleys I brought out with me I have discharg'd half though at some Risque of not being able to get others when Occasion requires in which case my necessaries must be left on the Ground for any one to pick up that meet with them. I remain in due form

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Serv^{t}.

THOMAS COOKE

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

Which having been communicated immediately to the Gent[n] of Council it was judg'd proper in Consequence to write the following Letters to Major Lawrence and M[r] Cooke viz

To STRINGER LAWRENCE Esq[r]. COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ALL THE COMPANY'S FORCES IN INDIA.

Sir

We wrote you last the 20[th] Instant since which we have receiv'd from M[r] Cooke Advice that Monagee is degraded from his Command which has been conferr'd on Gadirow and that they were to march in a few days, he takes notice of Succojee Naik's great Power at Court and his being in the French Interest; that the King is very dilatory and that his Attachment to the Nabob on us can be depended on no further than the Safety of his own Country shall make it necessary and that his Consent to the last Article will never be procur'd, he has frequently amus'd us with Proposals of accommodating Affairs with the Daloway which have always come to nothing, the last we made to him is a very reasonable one, we think he should without Delay declare whether he accepts it, if not he should be press'd to join the Army without Delay that no favourable Opportunity may be lost.

The President's Advices mention near 100 Men sick and Wounded have been sent into Pondicherry, that between two and three hundred Men are Sick at Syringam and the Enemy greatly confus'd. If you should have Grounds to think this Intelligence authentick, you will best be able to judge whether it would be adviseable with your Force to make any Attempt on the Enemy. We are

Sir
Your most Obedient Servants

Fort S[t] George
23[d]. December 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHA[s]. BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

To THOMAS COOKE Esq[r]

Sir

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 9[th] Instant from Tanjour, by the Advices at different times [from] you, it plainly appears to us, that far from acceding to, th[e] Daloway has absolutely declin'd giving an answer to the proposal made him, it is said he has taken a Solemn Oath not to write any thing on this Subject but with the Consent of the French nor could we expect it when he declar'd he could not treat in Camp & therefore gave a Power to Vencatrow here to do it. Our Instructions to you were chiefly to reconcile the Affair to the Nabob and the King of Tanjour; the former has given us full Power; the latter is averse to it & continues to amuse us. Our Directions were to make the Proposal to the King of Tanjour, there was no Necessity to wait for discoursing with the Nabob whose Vakeel here was acquainted with it, therefore on the Receipt of this inform yourself and advise us of the King's Resolution, if he accepts them, well, if not, press him to join the Nabob with his forces which he cannot then have the least Pretence to delay. The Situation of the Nabob's Affairs made us come to a determinate Resolution to treat, his Distress and the Superiority of the Enemy render'd it difficult to get any Terms their late ill Successes will doubtless incline them to be more moderate, there are but two Alternatives; If the King of Tanjour will agree to and the Dalloway accept the Proposals beforemention'd, if not the last Article, and this we are perswaded he will

demand whilst he has the least hopes remaining, If the Blow could be repeated it might reduce them to great Distress, but by the Majors Letters we observe they are still superiour in the field ; We have always found Success very fluctuating and in the present Situation think it not prudent to run the Hazard of Extremes but make use of this fortunate Occasion if possible to terminate the Affair.

We are

Sir

Your affectionate Friends

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHA^{S}. BOURCHIER

Fort S^{t} George
23^{d} December 1753.

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 24th

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}. GOVERN^{R}. PRESID^{T}.
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Commission (as enter'd in the Cowle and Commission Book) appointing the Rev^{d}. M^{r} Robert Palk and M^{r} Henry Van Sittart Commissioners to treat at Sadrass with the French Deputies and Instructions to them as enter'd hereunder are now sign'd Viz^{t}

Orders and Instructions Given by the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}. President and Governour of Fort S^{t} George &c^{a}. &c^{a}. &c^{a}. and the Council thereof, to the Reverend M^{r}. Robert Palk and M^{r}. Henry Van Sittart Commissioners on behalf of the Honble United East India Company for holding Conferences with the Deputies of the Marquiss Dupliex Governour of Pondicherry and other Parties concern'd in the present War in the Carnateck.

We the President and Council aforesaid having appointed You M^{r} Robert Palk 1st
and M^{r} Henry Van Sittart to confer with the Deputies of M^{r}. Dupliex Governour of Pondicherry of ways and means to terminate the present Troubles in the Carnateck, you are therefore to proceed to Sadrass, (the Place appointed for that Purpose) in time to arrive there on or before the 30th Instant, and if the French Deputies should not be there you are immediately to dispatch a Messenger to M^{r} Dupliex with notice of your Arrival.

You are to observe throughout the Conferences and on all Occasions that the 2d
English have not at any time during the Troubles and do not act as Principals but as Allies to the Circar.

Upon opening the Conferences you are in the first Place to demand that Nabob 3
Anaverdy Cawn Behauder be acknowledg'd as Subah of the Carnateck in as full and ample a manner as his Fa[ther] or any other Subahs have enjoyed the Province and that [the] King of Tanjour enjoy his Country without Molestation, in consequence of which, such Demands as M^{r}. Dupliex may have on him will be consider'd and if possible reconcil'd an[d] adjusted.

If these Proposals which have been repeated in our seve[ral] Letters as the only Basis on which we are empower'd to treat should be rejected, the Treaty must drop but howe[ver] you may demand the Proposals they have to Make and acquaint us with them.

———*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*———

If they should be accepted you will then proceed to hear their Demand in regard to the Nabob and their Resolutions in regard to the King of Tanjour and communicate them to us as they are Points that no determinate Resolution can be made on till those Princes are acquainted with them.

As M^r^. Dupliex is an Ally of the Daloway he will undoubtedly think himself in honour bound and would be glad to treat for him. We think there is no Occasion for introducing him into the Conference till by weighing their answers there appears a Probability of the prior Articles being concluded and then it may be intimated that it be left to the Nabob to treat with him separately, but if insisted on, that the Accounts between them be settled and for the Payment of such Sum as shall appear justly and equitably due, certain Districts in the Trichenopoly Country shall be mortgag'd.

That whatever Satisfaction shall be given to the other for Expences or Damages sustain'd shall be guaranteed by the rest and that as our Views in treating for the Nabob are to restore Peace to the Province that this may be more effectually secur'd by treating of and coming to an amicable Agreement as to our Trade on the whole Coast we are ready to do it and you may propose it.

We do not think there is any Reason to mention the Prisoners 'till the other Articles are agreed on and then it may be propos'd that they be sent to Europe, if this be objected to, that they continue as such 'till this Treaty be ratified by the several Interested and confirm'd by the Mogul and Salabat Jung.

These are the Principal Articles, many others may occur in the Course of the Conferences of which you will give us immediate Notice and write to us constantly every particular of your Proceedings.

We wish you Success and are

Your Affectionate Friends

Fort S^t^. George
24^th^ December 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

Agreed that Letters be wrote to the Nabob and King of Tanjour to advise them that we propose to hold a Conference with M^r^. Dupliex, that we shall communicate to them whatever passes and agree to nothing without their Concurrence.

The President lays before the Board Draug[ht] of Letters to Salabat Jung and Sydoo Lascar Cawn acquainting them of the Nabob's late Successes, that our View from the Beginning of the Troubles has been to support the Interests of the Circar and to defend those Rights and Priviledges of Trade which the Mogul and his Officers have granted to the English.

The President lays before the Board an Account of the Expence of Kisnajee Punt's Embassy to Balazarow amounting in the whole to fifteen hundred and fifty Rupees, eight Anæs (1550: 8) on which a Ballance of nine hundred and seventy three (973) Rupees is still due. Ordered that the Commissary do discharge the same & that the whole be carried to the Debit of the Nabob's Account.

The Tanjore Vakeel requesting an Advance of three hundred Pagodas on his Master's Account for which he offers his Bill. Agreed that it be complied with.

Abdul Bob Cawn writes that he is ar[riv'd] at Conjeveram and desires a party may be sent to join him there and then he will proceed in settling the Country Agreed that he be acquainted a small Detachment is ready to march to his Assistance and only wait for Money to set forward, as soon as he sends that they shall proceed.

General Letters are now sign'd to Capt^n^ William Lin at Changleput and Captain Ch^s^. Campbell ordering the latter to proceed to Changleput and take up on him the Command of that Fort which the former is directed to deliver over to him.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

A General Return of the Strength of this Garrison being laid before the Board and consider'd it is the unanimous Opinion that as there appear to be but 171 European Centinels and People of the Train fit for Duty and 41 Sick, the most that can be spar'd to reinforce the Major is fifty Europeans; Agreed that they be draug[hted] out & sent by the first Conveyance.

THO^{S}· SAUNDERS
CHA^{S}· BODDA[M]
HENRY POWNEY
A^{R}· WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CH^{S}· BOURCHIER

Received a Letter from the Marquiss Dupliex dated 25th December N° 21 in answer to the Presidents of the 18th Inst^{t}· N° 20 which being pretty long and containing Matter for mature Debate and consideration it was thought proper to postpone the answering it for a few days but as M^{r}· Dupliex desires Passports for his Deputies to Sadrass a short Letter was wrote, dated & sent him this day No. 22 acknowledging the Receipt of his Letter & inclosing the Passports. 29.

Receiv'd General Letters from Major Lawrence and Tho^{s}· Cooke Esq^{r}· as follow

Honble Sir & Sirs (No. 20)

I acquainted you in my last of the 21st December that the Enemy had made a Detachment of three thousand Horse & some Seapoys in the Tanjour Country and that Monagee was sent out after them, he has kill'd and taken some Prisoners. By the last Accounts since that there is a part of them at Moyaveram and the rest at Carical.

The King of Tanjour has wrote to me for a Detachment which was out of my power to gran[t.] For I cannot think of dividing our little handful of Men. I have wrote him word that if he will send up Provision[s] sufficient to stock the Fort I will go down myself to his Assistance.

Moraree has sent his Guns and Baggage away to a fort of his in the Mysore Country ca[lled] Selim & intends soon himself to follow.

This Incursion of the Enemies requires our Attention. Whether Fear & present Self Preservation may not prevail on the King to endeavour to compromise matters by a strict Neutrality, or to prevent it obliges us to make a Motion to keep them firm in their Alliance and leave the Fort though well Garrison'd to the Risque of another Assault. I beg Gentlemen your Opinions on the Matter and am Gentlemen

Your most Obedient and most
Humble Servant

S. LAWRENCE

Camp
23^{d}· December 1753.

P.S. We have just receiv'd Intelligence that the Enemy has made a Detachment of 200 Europeans & 400 Seapoys for Gingee. They march'd last Night.

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}·
Governour & President, &c^{a} Council
Fort S^{t} George

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r.
President and Governour &c^a. Council of Fort S^t George

Hoñble Sir & Sirs Trincatapully 21 Dec^r. 1753.

My last to you under date the 9^th Inst^t. (of which this incloses Duplicate) acquainted you with the Motives that induc'd me to think a short Pause in our Negotiation not unnecessary. The Major has since concurr'd with me in that Opinion and as I am not yet return'd to Camp have nothing fresh to acquaint you on that Subject. I left Tanjour on the 14^th past in Company with Gauderow and a part of the Troops who have been encamp'd at this place to gather up the rest ever since; They would I believe have been in readiness to have proceeded before now, but a Party of 2000 Horse coming this way from Syringapatam about four days ago has oblig'd the King to send out Monogee in pursuit of them which took away a good Part of the Troops that were intended for us. He got up with them on the 18[th.] and has kill'd and taken upwards of 100 Horse and [between] two & three hundred Pondays are made Prisoners. We hear [*one word lost*] are since carried into Tanjour, the rest of the Enemy they say are fled to Karical; Monagee remains still out with his own Troops but (as Gauderow informs me today) has s[ent] back those design'd for us which are expected to come out [*a few words lost*] every day. On their joining of us we shall immediately proceed and I hope soon after to acquaint you the Dalloway is hearkening to Terms, at present have only to remain

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient humble Serva[nt]

Thomas Cooke.

30th The Secretary by the President's Direction having communicated the foregoing Letters to the Gentlemen of Council and taken their Opinions thereon; the following General Letter was in consequence this day sign'd and sent to the Major viz^t

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^r.
Commander in Chief of all the Company's Forces
in India.

Sir

Our last to you was dated the 23^d Instant, yours of that date is since come to hand but that you mention of the 21^st N° 19 has not been receiv'd.

It certainly is of the utmost Importance to the Nabob's Affairs that the King of Tanjour should remain firm in his Alliance and therefore no prudent means should be omit[ted] that may keep him so, it was upon our Assurances of Pro[tecti] on to his Country against the Morattas that he join'd the Nabob with his forces; it is therefore highly necessary we should as far as possible comply with our Engagements espe[ci]ally as there is reason to fear he has for some time past been but too much influenc'd by the Councils of Succojee Naik The Question on which you desire our Opinion is in what man[n]er it is adviseable to assist him; the Circumstances of Affairs are so subject to change that whatever General Direc[ti]ons we may give must still be subject to your Judgment when they come to be put in Execution, as matters appear to us now we think if the Enemy have detach'd the men y[ou] mention from Syringam to Gingee their force must be so considerably reduc'd that we need not be under any great Apprehensions for Trichenopoly, if the whole Army were to march towards Tanjour which seems necessary if the Morattas still continue their Incursions into that Country for we are entirely of your Opinion that our Force ought not to be divided if it can be avoided, yet as Trichenopoly is of the last Consequence and the large Number of Prisoners there are a heavy Burthen on the Garrison, would it not be adviseable (in case you should find it necessary to march with the Army) to leave such a further Number of Men in it for the present as you may think sufficient to put it out of all Risque from an Assault? These may again join you when Affairs permit.

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

We had prepar'd and intended in a few days to have sent to S^{t}· David a Detachment of about fifty men to reinforce you, which is all we think we can spare but on your Advice of the Party from Syringam being gone to Gingee we think it proper to defer sending you these men untill we can be certainly inform'd of the Destination of that Detachment which we imagine may be intended to cause a Diversion this way, should it prove otherwise we shall by the first Opportunity dispatch to you the intended Reinforcement.

The Strength of the Garrison of Devecotah does not appear to us sufficient to spare any Detachments we have therefore directed the Chief to recall the Party sent to Pallancotah.

At the Request of the Tanjour Vakeel we have advanc'd him three hundred Pagodas, his Bill for that Sum in your favour on Succojee Naick is inclos'd, as are also Copies of two Letters from the President, One to the Nabob, the other to the King of Tanjour.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants

Fort S^{t} George
The 30th Dec^{r}· 1753.

THOMAS SAUNDERS
CHARLES BODDAM
HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH
JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

AT A CONSULTATION *Present* Monday the 31st,

THOMAS SAUNDERS ESQ^{R}· GOV^{R}· PRESID^{T}·
CHARLES BODDAM HENRY POWNEY
ALEXANDER WYNCH JOHN SMITH
CHARLES BOURCHIER

The Letter from M^{r}· Dupliex receiv'd [the] 29th Instant dated 25th Dec^{r}· N^{o} 21 being now read and co[nsi]der'd, the most material Points to be answer'd are these.

M^{r}· Dupliex puts the Question whether the Cause of the war was not our setting up Mahomed Ally in opposition to the lawful Nabob.

He agrees that the Legality of Mahomed Ally's Title be examin'd into and desires our Commissaries may be instructed on this head and if they can produce Proofs of the Validity of his Rights he will admit them.

He further offers in case the Rights of Mahomed Ally should no[t] appear such as can be admitted, if he (Mahomed Ally) can procure a Declaration in his favour from Salabat Jung (whose Right of nominating when and as often as he pleases such Governour of the Carnateck as he thinks fit) in that case he will submit to the Legality of Ma[ho]med Alli Cawn's Title.

He proposes that something should be done for Raja Saib the Son of Chunda Saib who has as much right to be remember'd in treaty as Mahomed Ally.

In regard to the King of Tanjour he says he only mention'd him with a View of Suggesting some means to satisfy what is due to him.

On which Points the Board are of O[pi]nion that the answer to be given should be to this Effect. As to the Cause of the War and the Legality of Nabob Mahomed Ally's Title he had a Saned from Nazir Jung who deriv'd his Right of granting it from the Mogul, these the French unjustly contested and they were therefore the Cause of the War.

That the Submitting the Decision of Nabob Mahomed Ally's Rights to Salabat Jung has indeed the Appearance of Candour and Justice that the Right of a Prince of Decan to appoint a Nabob of the Carnateck is not disputed when he can exert that Right freely but Salabat Jung is absolutely under the Influence and

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Harnes India
on 13 April, 2019

——*FORT ST. GEORGE, DECEMBER 1753.*——

Direction of the French Troops of which there are many Instances and not at Liberty to follow his own Inclination and Interest in the Appointment of Officers dependent on the province of Decan, that any Appointment made under Bias or Compulsion ought to have the Sanction of a Superiour Power before it can be admitted, that the Mogul has a Right to controul the Actions of the Prince of Decan who holds his Government from him, that the Mogul is not under the Influence of any European Power and the Decision of the Affairs of this Province ought therefore to be left to him.

That we shall not be against considering Rajah Saib not that he has any Title but because M^{r}. Dupliex espouses his Cause.

That what he (Dupliex) says in relation to the King of Tanjour is no answer to our Proposal and that we still persist in demanding the same Terms as a Basis for the Treaty.

The President lays before the Board the Country Correspondence, the most material of which are from the King of Tanjour and Mootaz Ally Cawn.

The former declines entering on the Treaty with the Daloway on the Terms offer'd to him of mortgaging the Madera and Tinnevelly Countries for a Security in case he could accommodate matters with the Daloway for sixty Lacks of Rupees.

Mootaz Ally Cawn's Letter is in answer to one wrote him sometime ago by the President offering him a Letter of Indulgence and desiring he would release Lieu^{t}. Smith and some other English Prisoners which he consents to do as soon as he receives the Letter of Indu[lgence] and promises to maintain a firm friendship with the Nabob; Agreed that a Letter of Indulgence be sent hi[m] accordingly.

Tho^{s}. Saunders
Cha^{s}. Boddam
Henry Powney
A^{r}. Wynch
John Smith
Ch^{s}. Bourchier